Tanong ng Bayan/A18
Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

Entertainment / A33
ABS-CBN asks Ai Ai to leave ABC show

Business / B2-1
Giuliani talks on timeless leadership

World / A11
Iraqi militants abduct 2 French journalists

Infotech / B12
Edu jeered, pelted in Greenhills raid

Spot the differences in Edsa Shrine mural

DAPAT TAMA ANG RETOKE!

By Fe Zamora

A VIOLATION of intellectual property rights?

On the contrary, remedial work done recently on the People Power mural at the Edsa Shrine is some-

SPOT/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't hard up in releasing half of 2004 pork barrel

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

HALF of the P20 billion in pork barrel for the pet projects of legislators this year has yet to be released, according to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Each member of the House of Representatives is allotted P70 million in pork barrel (not

GOV'T/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, August 30, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 264 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Bishop tells solons: Abstain from pork

Pork good, militant lawmaker insists

By Carlito Pablo

REPRESENTATIVES of militant party-list groups in Congress not only disdain to conceal their views on the pork barrel, they have become outspoken defenders of the graft-ridden fund.

Rep. Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis said the experience of militant street parliamentarians in Congress had changed their views about the pork barrel system, which they had previously denounced as the embodiment of patronage politics and a source of corruption.

"There's a change in perspective. Our ranks were able to show that pork barrel can redound to the benefit of the masses," Mariano, former head of the peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, said in a phone interview.

Mariano was referring to his colleagues in the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis.

Through the pork barrel, Bayan Muna was able to put up a P3-million mobile clinic for urban poor communities, according to Mariano. Rep. Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna had also earlier cited a three-story student activity center at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines as "one logical reason why the pork barrel need not be abolished despite the raging fiscal crisis."

"How can pork barrel be bad when the first and last centavos of a project are spent on meaningful projects and are not lost in corruption?" Mariano said.

Various studies, as well as the testimony of other lawmakers, however, have shown otherwise. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for in-

PORK/ A22

ROGER MARGALLO

WHILE the sun may be shining over Manila, a big expanse of Central Luzon still lies submerged in water. The sight shocked Sen. Richard Gordon when he flew over the area yesterday. The flooding brought misery to more than one million people. Damage to crops was heavy.

Gordon demands probe of CL flooding

By TJ Burgonio, Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DON'T be deceived by the sun glaring over Manila. Out there in Central Luzon, people in parts of Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac are still struggling through floods, awaiting relief or are trapped in waters up to 10 feet deep in places.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on tourism who flew yesterday in an Air Force helicopter over the ravaged areas, said he was shocked at the extent of the flooding and called for a Senate inquiry into what caused it.

Mayor Jay Sagum of flooded San Luis town in Pampanga, citing accounts of longtime residents, said the floods that hit their town were of the same scale that turned a wide expanse of Central Luzon into a virtual sea in 1972.

In July that year, about two months before then President

GORDON/ A22

Last chance for country to recover –Rosales

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christine O. Avendaño

GIVE up the pork barrel as part of "fasting on corruption," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales yesterday urged members of Congress amid the growing public clamor for the lawmakers to forsake their pork to help government head off economic collapse.

Each member of the House of Representatives is allotted P70 million in pork barrel, officially called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), while each senator is entitled to P200 million for their pet projects. The total is a whopping P20 billion every year.

Rosales said giving up the pork barrel could be "our last chance to recover."

Faced with a budget deficit of about P200 billion this year and a public sector debt of more than P5 trillion, President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked members of Congress to cut their pork barrel by 40 percent. A few legislators are willing to give up all their pork barrel, but many are against it.

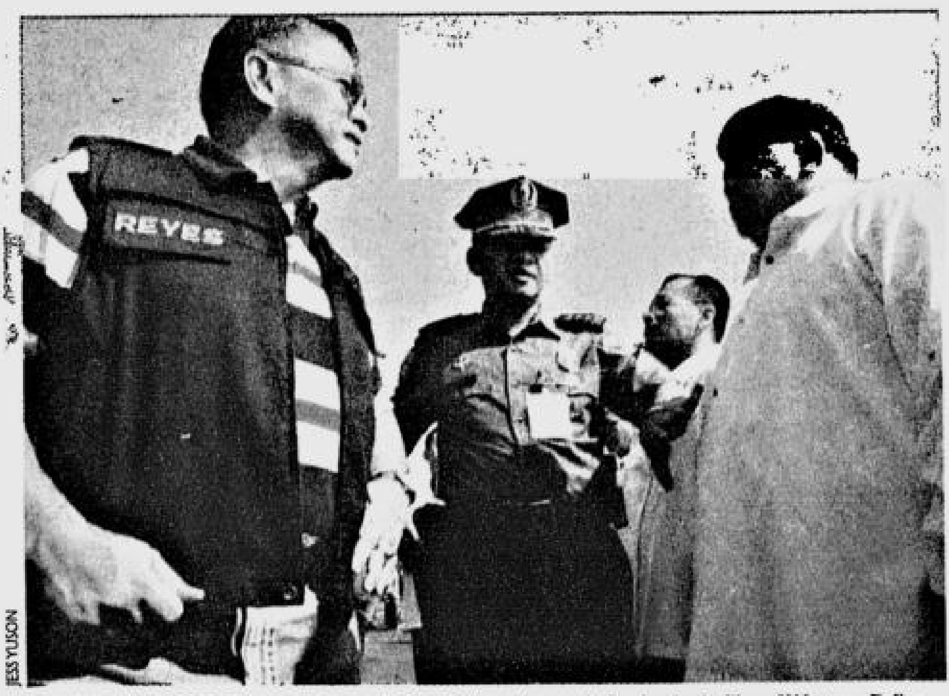
Rosales said the pork barrel was a source of huge temptations for legislators, some of whom were too weak to resist them. He mentioned studies by the World Bank that found that 40 percent of government money was lost to corruption.

"It is so sad ... Just think, we lose 40 percent (of our budget) to graft, 30 percent to debt servicing. What will be left? 30 percent? How can you run a government with 30 percent (of the budget)?" Rosales told reporters.

He said legislators did not even need the pork, and would do well to directly ask the national government for funding for important projects.

"That is why they are tempted. When say, P80 million goes to the hands of someone who is weak, then he would easily succumb to temptation. That is why they should give it up," the prelate said.

BISHOP/ A22



JESS YUSON

BELLY BULGE. PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay (center) checks the bellies of Western Police District officers at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. With him is Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Manila policemen taught lessons in good grooming

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tarra V. Quismundo

TO SHOW he meant business, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay grabbed a clump of hair peeking out from under a policeman's cap and unceremoniously snipped it off with a pair of pocket scissors.

Before the morning was over, seven other police officers had gotten an unexpected trim from their new police chief and the PNP's No. 3 man, Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco.

Aglipay gave the Western Police District's 3,200 officers a lesson or two in good grooming during an inspection at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila early yesterday morning. The inspection was part of the PNP's renewed program to restore good grooming among the rank and file.

When Aglipay and Velasco were done, the wild strands of hair poking out from under the eight officers' caps were gone, a glaring reminder that policemen would now have to see a barber regularly so they could comply with the PNP's newly relaunched "*gupit binata*" (no hair touching the ears or collar) policy.

Some of those who escaped the scissors were reprimanded for bulging bellies, dirty fingernails, or for simply looking sloppy in uniform.

"Make that belly proportionate with your chest," Aglipay told one officer, who was struggling to keep his stomach in during the formation.

Aglipay also stopped in front of some officers, peering at their fingernails.

MANILA/ A20

Deaf also mark Nat'l Language Month

By Volt Contreras

OF ALL the schools in the country, this one might be the least expected to put much thought and effort into the celebration of "Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa," or National Language Month, which the country marks every August.

But they do take the commemoration seriously at the Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf (Said), a special learning center in Miriam College in Quezon City.

While the government constantly urges the youth to improve their English, the students—who communicate and receive instructions through sign language based on English—wish they could be as good in comprehending Filipino.

The INQUIRER visited the school last Friday in line with a "Buwan ng Wika" program that it is staging today. With one of the teachers serving as an interpreter, an interview with some high school students proved to be quite a revelation:

Jemima, 16, said simple phone text or Internet chat room messages in Filipino had sent her "running to my sister for a translation." She said phrases, such as "*Ano gusto mo* (What do you want)?" or "*Saan ka* (Where are you)?" had been quite a hurdle the first time she encountered them. Until now, she said, she would sometimes ask for English "re-sends" of certain Filipino messages.

Mark, 14, admitted that he understood "only some of the words" of the national anthem, "*Lupang Hinirang*."

When the teacher once asked her to finger-spell a common street sign, "*Bawal Tumawid* (Do Not Cross)," Andrea, 16, said she could make out the first half, but "Tumawid" she grasped only when the corresponding English hand sign was given.

Two other street signs, "*Mapanganib*" and "*Nakamamatay*," were just as alien to the students in finger-spelling. The teachers had to give them the translation, "dangerous."

DEAF/ A20

MARK Sampang, a high school student, enthusiastically explains his comic strip in sign language.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/08/30/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Refiled tax credit scam cases designed to fail, says witness

By Michelle V. Remo

A KEY witness to the country's biggest tax credit scam has scored the way the Bureau of Customs, already battered by accusations of deliberately bungling the prosecution of tax credit fraud cases, is currently handling the cases it refiled which could lead to another round of case dismissals.

Felix Chingkoe, a witness to the multibillion-peso tax credit scam involving the Chingkoe group of companies owned by his brother Faustino Chingkoe, said the government could not expect to get justice in the tax fraud cases with the kind of prosecution initiated by the BOC's collection team.

"I believe the bungling of the cases is intentional… Wrong addresses, wrong or dead respondents, incomplete data and information. What else can we expect from these cases (but dismissal)," said Felix.

Felix was referring to the data used by the BOC's collection team, headed by Deputy Commissioner Gil Valera, in refiling the dismissed tax credit fraud cases which involved about P2 billion in lost revenues for the government.

Lack of seriousness

He said the wrong and incomplete information on the refiled cases against the Chingkoe group of companies showed lack of seriousness on the part of the BOC to successfully prosecute the suspects in the tax credit scam.

The BOC has refiled with the Court of Tax Appeals the 14 tax credit fraud cases that were earlier dismissed by the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The cases involved the following companies: Master Color System, Integrated Multi-Cotton Mills, Nikko Textile Mills, Express Colour Industries, FLB International Fiber Inc., Tex Asia Inc., Kultura Knitex, Fiber Technology Corp., AR Packaging Corp., Kultura Knitex and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. Shell had cases filed against it, but it was a mere transferee, or buyer of fraudulent tax credit certificates sold by the Chingkoe group.

Fictitious addresses

Valera had denied that the dismissals were caused by "lack of interest to prosecute" as earlier reported, but were due to technical reasons, such as the failure of the court's summons to reach the respondents because of fictitious addresses.

But Felix Chingkoe noted that because of the perceived lack of effort by the BOC to rectify the failures of prosecution in the past, the cases would hardly prosper.

He noted that in the case against Integrated Multi-Cotton Mills, which was refiled with the CTA, the BOC tagged the wrong people as respondents. The respondents named in the case—Hernando Lagera, Victorino Gallana, Carmencita Camara, Tan Po Chu and himself—were not connected with Integrated. These people, including himself, used to work for the Chingkoe group of companies, but Integrated was not a member of the group, Felix explained.

Wrong respondents

On the cases refiled against Express Colour Industries, Fiber Technology and FLB International Fiber Corp., all owned by Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, Felix said the BOC again tagged the wrong respondents.

Instead of naming the Chingkoe couple as respondents, the BOC named people who used to work with the Chingkoe group but were either dead or had nothing to do with the companies' use of tax credits.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, the respondents in the cases included Vianita Acilo, Luningning Lamson, Hernando Lagera and Victorino Gallana.

Acilo is the wife of Faustino's personal driver, while Lamson was only a nominee to the companies' board. Felix said that Lagera and Gallana had nothing to do with the tax credit scam. Lagera is dead while Gallana had left for Canada.

It was only in the case against Master Colour System Inc. that the prosecutors named Faustino Chingkoe as a respondent. The prosecutors, however, used a wrong address for Faustino of Doneza St., Valenzuela, Metro Manila, in its complaint instead of the correct address of Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City.

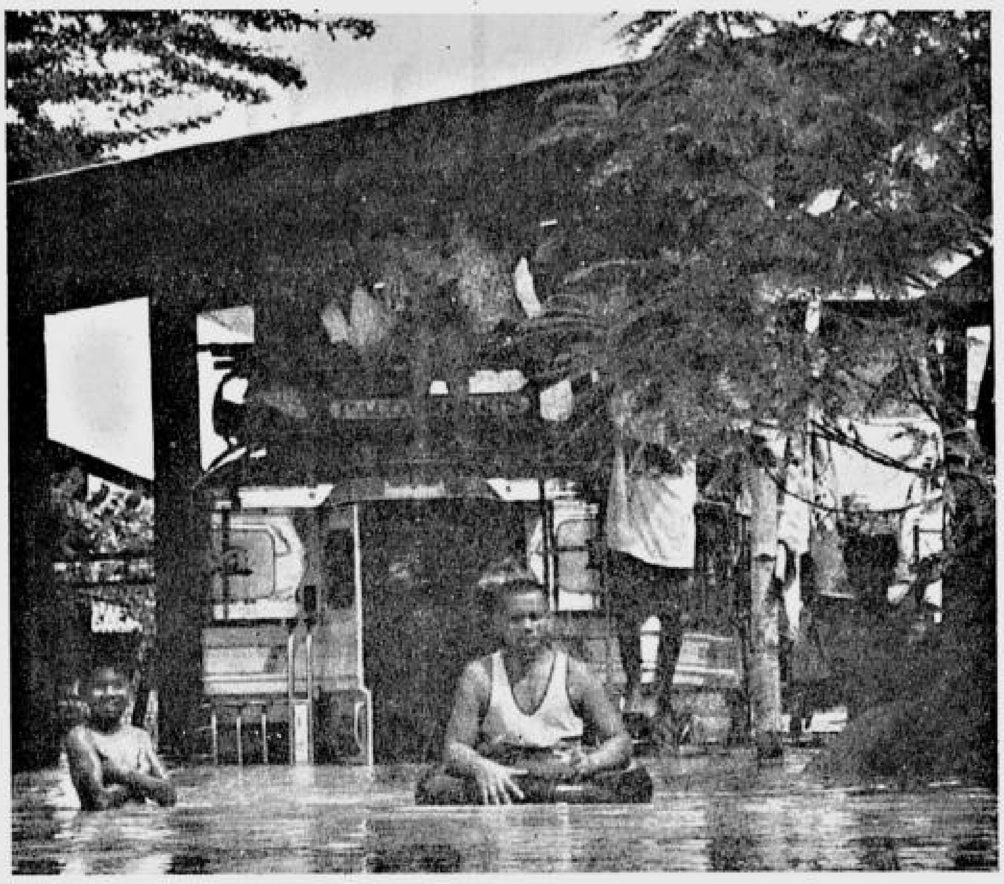
Won't be served again

"They gave the CTA the wrong address so the summons will be sent and will not be served again," said Felix Chingkoe.

Felix, who was granted immunity for turning state witness in the tax credit cases, likewise questioned his inclusion in two of the cases, branding the move as an act of "pure harassment."

In response to the accusation he deliberately bungled the cases, Valera earlier denied doing so in exchange for favors.

"I am not guilty of what they are accusing me because if I were so; I should not be coming out in the open, and should not have initiated the refiling of the cases," he had said.



IT'S SATURDAY, LET'S GO SWIMMING

It's really nothing to laugh about but these residents of Paniqui, Tarlac, whose home remained under water as of Saturday seem to be taking the flooding in stride, even bringing out a rubber tube (foreground). Typhoons Marce and Chaba left many dead and much damage to the country last week. Story on Page A1.

AP

Please help, GMA asks Guingona

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR THE second time this week, Malacañang has appealed to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. to help President Macapagal-Arroyo in the pursuit of her priority programs and to play a key role in forging unity with the opposition.

The invitation was aired again yesterday as the opposition questioned Ms Arroyo's move to cut the pork barrel of lawmakers and to pass eight new tax measures to manage the burgeoning budget deficit.

"The President has invited former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. to spearhead development programs attuned to the 10-point agenda, particularly those he had initiated in the past, such as the Seafarer Project and OFW (overseas Filipino workers) Housing Program," Press Secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"The President believes [Guingona] can play an important role in helping the administration unite the people in meeting the present crisis," Bunye said.

In an interview over RMN radio on Friday, Ms Arroyo was asked about her relationship with her former vice president and foreign secretary.

The President took this as an opportunity to extend the hand of reconciliation to Guingona and even asked for his help.

Guingona had resigned as foreign secretary because of policy differences with Ms Arroyo.

The former vice president formally distanced himself from Ms Arroyo when she changed her mind and decided to run in the May presidential elections. He joined the camp of opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. as an adviser.

Ms Arroyo promised during the election campaign to appoint members of the opposition to her Cabinet, but so far, no one has been named to her new administration.

The President has invited Guingona to help in the areas overseen by Vice President Noli de Castro, whom she named as her housing and OFWs czar.

MCLE SEMINAR FOR LAWYERS

4th 2004 MCLE Lecture Series - October 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2004

[Credit units earned may still be credited to the first compliance period]

Bar Matter No. 850 and its implementing rules provide, among others, that failure to comply with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) 36-unit requirement at the end of the compliance period shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law. To afford lawyers the opportunity to fully comply with the MCLE requirement, we are sponsoring the following Lecture Series:

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Please check your chosen session	AM/PM Session	Date	Subject Classification/Time and MCLE Credit Units (CU)	Lecturer
	AM Session	Oct. 2, 2004 Sat.	Oral Advocacy – 8-10 am (2CU)	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
			International Law – 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma
	PM Session		Updates in Criminal Law – 1-3 pm (2CU)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
			Updates in Constitutional & Election Laws – 3:15 pm - 6:15 pm (3CU)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong
	AM Session	Oct. 9, 2004 Sat.	Updates in Remedial Law – 8-10 am (2CU)	Dean Ed Vincent S. Albano
			Pre-Trial Skills – 10:15 am – 12:15 pm (2CU)	Justice Noel G. Tijam
	PM Session		Trial Technique – 1-3 pm (2CU)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
			International & Domestic Arbitration – 3:15 pm – 6:15 pm (3CU)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	AM Session	Oct. 16, 2004 Sat.	Arbitration Law & Agreements – 8-10 am (2CU)	Prof. Mario E. Valderrama
			MCLE-Prescribed: Rules on Electronic Evidence – 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	PM Session		Updates in Legal Ethics – 1-4 pm (3CU)	Justice Hector L. Hofileña
			Updates in Labor Law – 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm (2CU)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	AM Session	Oct. 23, 2004 Sat.	Legal Writing - 8-10 am (2CU)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr.
			MCLE-Prescribed: Law & Economics– 10:15 am – 12:15 pm (2CU)	Prof. Harry L. Roque, Jr.
	PM Session		Problem Areas in Legal Ethics – 1-4 pm (3CU)	Justice Ruben T. Reyes
			MCLE-Prescribed: Essentials of Forensic Ballistics, Questioned Documents & Fingerprinting 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm (2CU)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong

Yes, I want to attend the: ___entire 36 credit unit session; ___ per half day session.
Name of Participant: __________________ Roll No.: ________
(Please PRINT) (Last Name) (First Name) (M. I.)
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Signature of Participant: __________________ Fax #: ________

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Inclusions: Meals (morning or afternoon snacks for half day sessions plus lunch for whole day sessions), Hand-outs, Certificate of Attendance & Certificate of Appreciation, Seminar Bag/Kit, FREE PARKING, Free-flowing coffee and candies, Free Notarization of the Attorney's Compliance Report and Submission thereof to the MCLE Office.
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The 5th 2004 MCLE Lecture Series will be conducted on November 20 & 27, 2004 and December 4 & 11, 2004.

Interested participants may register in either or both the 4th and/or 5th MCLE Lecture Series

Reform government firms' operations, urge solons

By Carlito Pablo

TWO LAWMAKERS yesterday proposed reforms in the operations of government-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions.

Reps. Rolando Andaya (LP, Camarines Sur) and Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi, Albay) said separately that these GOCCs and GFIs were partly to blame for the government's current financial woes.

Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs, even described these agencies as a "black hole," a term used in astronomy to refer to a region in space that generates such strong gravity that nothing, not even light, can escape its grip.

"The national government is becoming the repository of GOCC losses via automatic appropriations. Debts of failed GOCCs are also being absorbed," Salceda said.

Andaya, chair of the committee on appropriations, said that the government must take into consideration its exposure to so-called "contingent liabilities" or the obligations of GOCCs and GFIs.

"The latest being this year's assumption of P36 billion in interest payments of Napocor (National Power Corp.) debts by the national government," Andaya said.

Andaya's other proposed reforms:

* The removal of automatic guarantees for new projects to be undertaken by GOCCs.

* The disclosure of various contingent liabilities during the annual budgeting process of Malacañang.

"It's high time that we realize that government guarantees are not freebies or handouts but are, in reality, government resources," Andaya said.

For his part, Salceda proposed that Congress be given the authority to approve GOCC projects amounting to P1 billion and more.

Andaya said that additional debt servicing could lead to a higher year-end deficit than the projected P197 billion.

"The assumption of P36 billion in additional debt servicing would severely dampen the positive effects of any new tax measures," Andaya said.

Andaya noted that as of 2003, total public sector debt stood at P5.85 trillion, of which P2.67 trillion are contingent liabilities.

Andaya, however, pointed out that the P2.67 trillion contingent liabilities do not represent the total of these liabilities previously estimated to exceed P3 trillion.

Andaya said that neither the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance nor the Bureau of Treasury could provide a clear and complete picture of these liabilities.

Andaya proposed the creation of a "national risk management office" to make an inventory of these liabilities.

Population would outpace jobs

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE COUNTRY'S unchecked population growth would thwart the government's plan to create between six to 10 million new jobs within the next six years.

Because in the same period, 12.6 million Filipinos would have been added to the present population of 84.2 million, said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman of Aksyon Demokratiko.

Even if the government succeeded in meeting its target of creating six to 10 million new jobs, Lagman predicted that more Filipinos would be out of work six years from now.

"This is because our population increases at a rate much faster than we can possibly create new jobs," he said.

Lagman said the population would be expanding at a rate of 2.1 million every year over the next six years, while jobs would grow by only 1.6 million annually "in a best-case scenario, with the economy running at full speed."

The congressman has been pushing for controversial new legislation that would encourage families to have only two children as part of a sound population management program.

Lagman said that apart from mounting unemployment, other human development indicators—access to potable water, sanitation, basic education and decent housing—would continue to deteriorate simply because government resources would be spread too thinly.

"It has therefore become imperative for us in Congress to quickly put in place a policy framework that would allow us to move this country forward through sustainable population management," he said.

Gov't working to keep peace talks on track after clashes with MILF

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, Franklin A. Caliguid and Germelina A. Lacorte, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday took steps to prevent the escalation of hostilities between its troops and Muslim secessionist rebels in Maguindanao to ensure that the scheduled resumption of peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would not be derailed.

Sporadic fighting erupted in the towns of Ampatuan and Mamasapano in Maguindanao in the past 10 days, killing at least one soldier and two MILF guerrillas, despite a cease-fire agreement.

Malacañang yesterday said that members of the government and MILF cease-fire committees were en route to Maguindanao to help rein in the fighting in the area.

Secretary Silvestre Afable III, Malacañang's new communications director and chief government negotiator in the talks with the MILF, however, assured the public that the "skirmishes" in Maguindanao would not derail the peace process with the separatist group.

Vendetta

"The incident in Datu Saudi Ampatuan involves a local *rido* (vendetta) that the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is trying to control so it will not spread and affect the community," Afable said in a statement.

"This situation is localized and has nothing to do with outstanding issues in the GRP-MILF talks," Afable said.

The government is set to resume formal peace talks with the MILF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in a bid to end the decades-old conflict which has ravaged Mindanao.

The clashes "will not hamper and strain the talks between the government and the MILF," military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said in a statement.

But a rebel spokesperson warned that the incident could further delay the peace process.

"We have submitted a formal report of this incident to the government peace panel. This is a violation of the cease-fire agreement between the MILF and the Arroyo government" that was signed 13 months ago, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

But the military denied violating the cease-fire agreement. "We did not violate any provisions in our bilateral cease-fire... so it would not affect the ongoing peace talks," Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said.

10 killed

The MILF said on Sunday that two of its guerrillas and eight soldiers were killed, while 13 others were wounded when its forces clashed with Army troops in the outskirts of Mamasapano, Maguindanao, on Saturday.

The military, however, denied that eight soldiers were killed in the encounter. "We have no casualties," said Del Prado.

Kabalu said the fighting broke out at 3:20 a.m. in Barangay Linantangan when soldiers entered the village on the pretext of settling a feud between Linantangan village chief Kimpen Pangandal and his cousins Daunti and Faisal, both MILF regulars.

Kabalu said the feud started when Daunti and Faisal torched Pangandal's house on Aug. 21 after taking his firearm.

He said that on Saturday, Pangandal, backed by soldiers and militiamen, launched a retaliatory attack and razed several houses in the village.

As this developed, two factions of former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels clashed over a disputed piece of land in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao, early Sunday, Office of Muslim Affairs executive director Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan said.

Unconfirmed reports said there were casualties on both sides but no figures were immediately available.

Land disputes

Ampatuan said the violence erupted between followers of Abdulrahman Tutin, alias Commander Basco, of the MNLF's Western Kutawato Revolutionary Command and Commander Mamalapat Tamano, now a Datu Saudi town councilor.

Ampatuan said clashes due to land disputes were endangering the peace process since these could drag MILF members into the fray, as happened earlier in Mamasapano town.

Ampatuan expressed optimism that both the government and the MILF would resume the peace talks after the Department of Justice dropped criminal charges against 185 MILF members accused in the Davao bombings.

"But unless we can look at these things as a mere 'local conflict,' and isolate the incidents from the peace talks, there is a danger that the peace negotiations will again be derailed," Ampatuan warned. *With AFP, AP reports*

Promotion of police officer in Al-Ghozi escape decried

By Fe B. Zamora

A POLICE officer sacked over the escape of Jemaah Islamiyah militant Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from Camp Crame in 2003 will be among the "old, new and recycled" faces in the Philippine National Police force's forthcoming massive reorganization, a ranking police officer told the Inquirer.

The officer said the appointment of Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza to chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) had raised questions on the criteria for giving new assignments.

"He gave the PNP a black eye and he gets promoted? *Grabe naman* (That's unfair)," the officer, who requested anonymity, told the Inquirer.

Versoza was sacked as chief of the PNP Intelligence Group after Al-Ghozi, the most senior Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist jailed in the Philippines, escaped from his maximum detention cell on July 14, 2003. Al-Ghozi was killed in a shoot-out with troops in North Cotabato three months later. Fellow escapee Abdulmukim Edris was killed in another shoot-out, while another companion, Omar Opik Lasal, was captured in Zamboanga.

The source said Versoza was being groomed to replace Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao as chief of the CIDG, which is a two-star position.

Lomibao would be promoted to head one of the proposed Area Police Commands, a new concept in the PNP which is similar to area commands in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

According to the source, the PNP will have six area commands in the following geographical divisions: Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, National Capital Region, the Visayas and Mindanao, which will have two area commands.

Each area command will be headed by a deputy director general equal in rank to a three-star lieutenant general in the Armed Forces.

In a press conference Saturday, PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay said the list of officers in the proposed reorganization had been submitted to Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, who is also chief of the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

The new assignments will be announced on or before Sept. 1.

The source also said that Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales was being groomed as chief of the Western Police District. Rosales, a 1978 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, would be replacing Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, who is being promoted to regional director either for the Ilocos region or Central Luzon.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, regional director for Central Luzon, is reportedly being groomed to head one of the area commands. So are Chief Supt. Quirino de la Torre, PNP directorate for logistics, and Chief Supts. Simeon Dizon and Oscar Calderon.

Aglipay was sworn in as the 11th chief of the PNP last Monday and will serve until March 2005 on an extended basis. He turns 56 on Sept. 13, which is the mandatory retirement age.

Need a job? Come to the fair

By Martin P. Marfil

A CHINESE-Filipino business group is inviting job-seekers to its job fair on Sept. 3 where more than 11,000 local and foreign job openings will be made available.

The job fair will be sponsored by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) and will feature 90 local employers and 30 overseas employment agencies.

The local employers will be offering jobs in hotels, call centers, restaurants, real estate companies, banks, and telecommunications and retail firms.

Overseas employers, on the other other hand, will be looking for workers to be deployed in the manufacturing, garments, telecommunications, semi-conductors and electronic industries in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

The fair is designed as a one-stop shop where government agencies like the National Bureau of Investigation, the Social Security System and the Bureau of Internal Revenue will also set up booths to assist the job applicants in their documentation needs. The job fair will be held in the lobby of the FFCCCII building on Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila.

Job applicants are advised to bring pre-employment requirements like ID pictures, resumés, NBI and police clearances, SSS or taxpayers identification numbers, diplomas or transcripts of records, and employment certificates.

The fair, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., is part of the FFCCCII's 50th anniversary celebration.

The FFCCCII is one of the largest umbrella organizations of Chinese-Filipino businessmen with a network of 170 chambers of commerce and industry under it.

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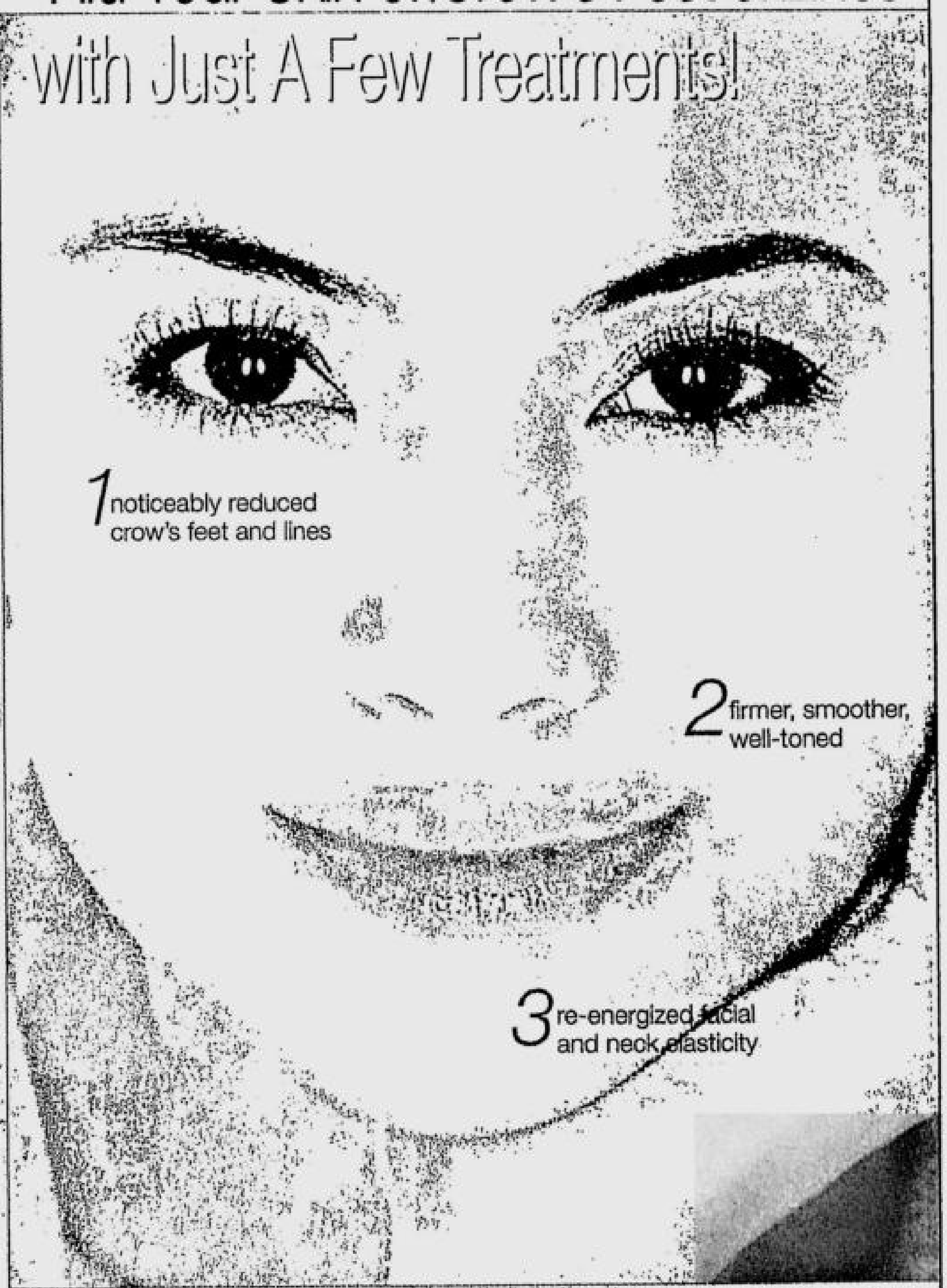
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MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA CEBU

TB deadlier than lethal injection in nat'l prison

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHO NEEDS the lethal injection when tuberculosis stalks the cells of the New Bilibid Prisons.

Tuberculosis remains the top killer in the NBP, causing one-third of the deaths in the country's overcrowded premier prison in Muntinlupa City.

Speaking at the 11th annual tuberculosis convention, NBP medical specialist Cynthia de Lara said that of the 413 inmates who died at the NBP in the last three years, 168 died of pulmonary illnesses, mostly tuberculosis.

De Lara said that many of the TB patients contracted the disease after entering the NBP. This was because of their exposure to patients in the maximum security building or the NBP hospital.

"Even those who are in the psychiatric ward develop tuberculosis after confinement in the hospital," De Lara said in an interview during the convention sponsored by the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary diseases caused 37.72 percent of the deaths in the NBP in 2002, 46.93 percent in 2003, and 31.34 percent from January to June this year. Tuberculosis accounted for almost half of all the pulmonary cases.

The disease is more prevalent among maximum security inmates because of the conditions in their cells. Of the 451 TB cases in 2002, 218 involved inmates confined in the maximum security building. In 2003, 192 of the 432 cases and 160 of the 421 cases this year involved prisoners in that building.

De Lara said that while the NBP had adopted the directly observed treatment-short course (DOTS), many of the patients suffered a relapse while others did not complete their treatment for lack of medicines and facilities.

The NBP receives anti-TB medicines from the Department of Health quarterly, but many new prisoners arrive at the NBP every day and catch the disease soon enough.

The NBP itself buys medicines for tuberculosis but this does not amount to much because the prison budget for all kinds of medical supplies is P1 per inmate per day. Anti-TB drugs already get one-third of this measly budget.

"We buy local drugs even if their efficacy is untested because they're the cheapest. We discover only how effective or ineffective they are when we examine the patients' response," De Lara said.

Relapses are also a huge problem for doctors in the NBP. From 2002 to June this year, 123 patients suffered a relapse.

This is because those undergoing or who had completed TB treatment are forced to go back to their cells, where they catch the bacteria again.

The medium security compound is the only building that houses TB patients separately, but it can only accommodate up to 70 people.

"We don't have a building to house those who have recovered, so we have no choice but to return them to their detention cells. We cannot accommodate everyone with TB in the hospital," De Lara said.

Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez called for stricter monitoring of TB cases in prisons, saying they were a breeding ground for bacteria.

Correction

IN THE Aug. 29 issue, the story "Mining firm files protest vs move to stop Baguio water project" in Across the Nation on Page A17 misstated the volume of water that Benguet Corp. has access to. The firm said it has access to only 657,000 cubic meters of water, not 657 million cubic meters.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Special rites for absent RM awardee

A SPECIAL ceremony awaits the Chinese doctor who exposed the SARS epidemic in China once he is able to come to the Philippines to receive his Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Jiang Yanyong, a retired Chinese military doctor and one of this year's seven Ramon Magsaysay awardees, had said he could not attend the awarding ceremonies on Aug. 31 because he was "very busy."

But the INQUIRER wire services had reported that the Chinese government had blocked Jiang's trip because it was displeased by his revelation.

"Yes, there can be a special awarding for him if he decides to come," said Carmencita Abella, president of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, at a press conference the other day.

Abella said this was done in the past for another awardee who was not able to come to Manila to attend the awarding ceremonies.

Organizers of Asia's most prestigious award at the same time denied having told a wire news agency that Jiang had been denied travel papers by the Chinese government.

"We don't have information on [that]. He only indicated he won't be able to come," Abella said. She added that Jiang had not authorized anyone to receive the award in his behalf, contrary to the wire reports that said his brother was going to receive the award for him.

In its citation, the RMAF said Jiang was responsible for revealing the extent of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in China while the Chinese government had tried to keep it under wraps.

"In 2003, as the virus called SARS swept unacknowledged into Beijing, he (Jiang) broke China's habit of silence and forced the truth of SARS into the open," the citation said.

This year's awardees include Prayong Ronnarong of Thailand, Abdullah Abu Sayeed from Bangladesh, Laxminarayan Ramdas from India, Ibn Abdur Rehman of Pakistan and Benjamin Abadiano and Haydee Yorac from the Philippines. The awarding rites will be held tomorrow, Aug. 31.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 30, 2004
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Lk 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

LONG gospel, short commentary!

"Today these words come true, even as you listen." Today is the most difficult day. Yesterday and tomorrow are no trouble; perhaps that's why I spend so much time there! Imagine: if they were places. I would seldom be at home! I would zip by now and then to see that my place hadn't been robbed, but I would leave again immediately. Really, I'm robbing myself! What use is my place to me?

If all the prophecies of all time are not fulfilled today, when will they be fulfilled? Nothing ever happens unless it happens today. Yesterday and tomorrow are only escapes from home; they are absences. I can be present only in the present.

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As a result of his efforts, his son, Takeshi was able to do Integral and Differential Calculus when he was in grade six. The news spread to the neighbors and soon the Kumon Institute of Education (KIE) was born.

From its humble beginnings, Kumon has now spread worldwide offering Kumon Math and Language programs to 3.5 million students in 44 countries.

The continued growth of the company is credited to its adherence to its mission that by discovering the potential of each individual and developing his or her ability to the maximum Kumon aims to foster sound, capable people and thus contribute to the global community.

In the Philippines, Kumon is present in 147 locations with 20,902 students as of July 2004.

2014 VISION

By 2014, we wish that all people in all countries and regions in the world will have the opportunity to learn with the Kumon Method, and that each individual will be enthusiastically self-learning and making efforts towards realizing his or her goals and dreams.

KUMON AT A GLANCE

The Kumon Instructor

At a Kumon center, the Instructor plays a central role in developing the child. Instructors have the desire to help children and motivate them to do their best.

For the students, Kumon Instructors are learning facilitators or coaches. They give them sufficient guidance but do not hinder their independence. They train students to self-learn and to become self-motivated.

The Kumon Student

The Kumon student goes to the Kumon center twice a week, stays there for approximately 30 minutes and does his worksheets and necessary supplementary activities. Five times a week, he would be doing his worksheets at home, this time, supervised by parents.

Whether they are on vacation or in school, Kumon is already integrated into their day-to-day lives. Such study habit builds the solid foundation for discipline. With the daily practice, students are able to master the material and develop their calculation skills and reading comprehension.

The Kumon Parent

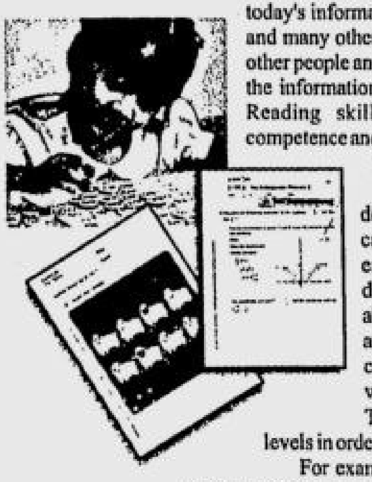
Parent involvement is essential in a child's Kumon study. Since it is a home-based program, parents' support and encouragement help the child progress along the levels.

How children do their worksheets at home is as equally important as how they do them at home. Parents should be able to monitor and motivate their children to concentrate on their worksheets and recognize their achievement by praising them when they have learned how to do the worksheets.

MATH AND READING SKILLS USHER A BRIGHT FUTURE

Some would ask why Kumon has chosen to offer Math and Reading programs. It is because these two fields form the foundation of any endeavor or profession. One would have to have strong calculation skills in order to face life's challenges and to be equipped for key positions in society such as doctors, engineers and architects.

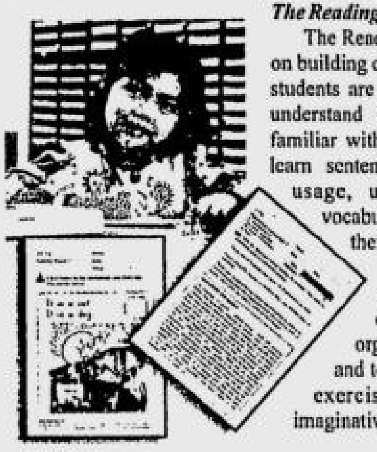
One would also need excellent comprehension skills in order to keep up with today's information age. Lawyers, authors, professors and many other professionals will not be able to help other people and become their best if they cannot grasp the information they have acquired. Thus, Math and Reading skills are the solid groundwork for competence and abilities.



The Math Program

The Math worksheets focus on developing and strengthening a child's calculation skills. With the numerous exercises that are systematically designed and arranged, the child will be able to master the topic. The worksheets are devised in such a way that students can review much of the previous lesson while learning a little of the new one. This process continues on across the levels in order for the child to link his skills together.

For example, the child can go through number division well if he has mastered his multiplication, subtraction and addition. Kumon solidifies and connects topics together in order to train the mind of a child to calculate as quickly and as accurately as possible.



The Reading Program

The Reading worksheets give great importance on building comprehension skills. Kumon Reading students are trained not only to read but also to understand what they have read. After being familiar with simple words and sounds, students learn sentence structure, grammar and correct usage, understand paragraphs and new vocabulary, and summarize and analyze on their own.

The Reading program encourages children to take interest in literature of different genre. It also trains them to organize the information that they gather and to relate it into their own words. These exercise the child's mind to become imaginative and perceiving.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT KUMON

A Straight Talk with Kumon

Kumon representatives Rommel Escoto and Wrigley Expression, area manager and communications officer, respectively, sat down with Straight Talk TV Host Cito Beltran to explain how the method works and operates in the Philippines. Beltran found out how Kumon is done in the center and how the child benefits the method through its individualized approach. Upon discussion of the Math and Reading worksheets, Beltran saw for himself how students can progress through the material. Many viewers phoned in to ask about the nearest Kumon branches in their locality at the end of the show. A number of Kumon parents also shared their comments on the Kumon Method.

"Invest in your kids, find out about Kumon because it's for their future."
- Cito Beltran, TV Host

A Different Breakfast at Unang Hirit

Early birds who regularly watch the top-rated morning news and information program Unang Hirit had a refreshingly different kind of breakfast as they were treated with a sampling of a Kumon Center in action. Segment host Drew Arellano had fun engaging the kids into answering Math problems on-the-spot. To explain more about the Kumon Method, chief instructor Roanna Santos from Mandaluyong also graced the early morning show.

"At Kumon, I get to teach children the joy of learning. I couldn't be happier."
- Roanna Lynn G. Santos

Ahead of Age

It is indeed newsworthy to see a seven-year-old boy tackle difficult Math problems with ease. Karen Davila, host of the investigative TV program The Correspondents, witnessed Oliver Yu, a Kumon student, finish these challenging exercises. It was shown that there was no limit in what a child can do. Oliver is just one out of the many young ones who have exceeded the expectations of their parents through their discipline and confidence in doing their Kumon. It was a true display of a child realizing his potential.

KUMON LAUNCHES THE THINKING FACE

There is always a better way of doing things Kumon does this by continuously keeping the children in mind in all its endeavors and activities. The Thinking Face, Kumon's new logo, embodies self-learning, self-confidence, self-discipline and the desire for constant improvement.

The "THINKING FACE" within the KUMON logo represents the faces of children who learn, think and grow in the Kumon Centers. It also represents the faces of instructors who are thinking about the children at all times and developing themselves.

Everyone involved in KUMON thinks about education very seriously, wants to learn from children, has the desire to grow alongside with others, and puts all of these into practice.

The KUMON BLUE represents intelligence, honesty and the sky that stretches across the world. It also represents the hope that the world will be united as one, that the future of the children will grow on a grand scale, and that the people all over the world will think more seriously about education.

POINTS TO PONDER

Who is it for? What is the age range?

Kumon caters to children of different ages and abilities. As early as when the child is already capable of holding a pencil and sitting down for at least 15 minutes, he can already be enrolled in the program. Adults have also tried Kumon and have found it to be very helpful.

Does 'individualized' mean one-on-one?

'Individualized' does not mean that there is one teacher for every one student. The program is individualized because there is an appropriate material for every student. The lessons that are given to a student are not based on his age or grade level but rather on his capability and the pace that is comfortable for him.

How often are the sessions and how long are they?

Students go to the Kumon center twice a week on regular scheduled times based on their availability. The sessions last for about 30-45 minutes per center visit. For the days when the child is not scheduled to go to the center, he will be given home works, which he will submit, to the instructor on his next center visit.

Why are there home works and why is it everyday?

Kumon believes that, through daily study, children will develop good study habits and will be able to learn the material better because of the daily practice. This is why students are required to do their homework also.

Is it a summer program like piano, ballet or karate?

Kumon is a long-term program and is, therefore, not only for the summer. The benefits a student will gain will not only come from a few months' work but from the patience and discipline developed over a longer period of time.

Is it a tutorial?

Tutorials aim at satisfying the current academic need of a child. Kumon, however, zeroes in on the root cause of the problem and starts the child at a level most comfortable for him.

KUMON IN ACTION

Through a diagnostic test given before enrollment, the instructor is able to determine the level where the student will be most comfortable. This is called the Easy Starting Point. This refers to the material which he will find quite easy to answer in order for him to gain confidence before he proceeds to more challenging topics.

As he does his worksheets, the student aims to hit a perfect mark and tries to finish it within his completion time goal. If the student falls short of his goal, he is given the same set of work for him to accomplish with better results. This is to ensure his mastery of the subject and his readiness to proceed to the next lesson.

The child learns the materials not by assistance from the instructor every step of the way. Instead of spoon-feeding the child, the instructor gives helpful hints only when necessary while still ultimately encouraging the child to do his work independently. The worksheets are designed in minute steps to help the child progress smoothly and learn on his own.

Kumon does not limit what the child can do. Students eventually study lessons they have not tackled in school before and study advanced material. With the goal of doing high school mathematics before reaching high school and developing reading comprehension, students can reach more than what is expected of them and develop skills which will be valuable for them in overcoming challenges.

With the discipline, good study habits, concentration, self-learning skills and confidence they gain from Kumon, they are bound to be who they want to become.

SELF-LEARNING

SELF-CONFIDENCE

SELF-DISCIPLINE

KUMON

As our commitment to serve you better,
allow us to introduce our new 'thinking face' logo.

The "THINKING FACE" inside the KUMON logo represents the faces of children who learn, think and grow with Kumon Centers. It also represents the faces of instructors who are constantly thinking about the children and developing themselves in the process. Everyone involved in KUMON thinks about education very seriously, wants to learn more from children, has the innate desire to grow alongside with others, and to put all these into practice.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Pinays finding work as drug couriers

By Carlito Pablo

FILIPINO women, known worldwide for working as domestic helpers, entertainers and even commercial sex workers, have been lured into a new "profession"—a growing number of them have become "mules" or drug couriers.

Citing a 2003 situationer by the Department of Foreign Affairs on overseas Filipino workers, Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said there were Filipino women languishing in foreign jails because they had been caught smuggling drugs across international boundaries.

"Finding places where Filipinas are detained for drug-related offenses is a course in world geography," Zubiri said. "From Argentina to Denmark, Pakistan to Ecuador, Filipinas were caught serving as mules or couriers of drug syndicates, some of which are members of South American drug cartels."

At the end of 2003, a total of 979 Filipino women were in foreign jails for various criminal offenses. Zubiri did not say how many were serving time for drug smuggling offenses but he cited a few cases.

Three Filipino women are detained in Colombia and another two in Argentina for bringing in drugs.

Two are serving prison terms in Chile and Ecuador. In Chile, the 32-year-old Filipino was caught with 2.5 kilos of cocaine, while in Ecuador, the 47-year-old Filipino was nabbed with two kilos of cocaine.

At least three Filipinos are in Hong Kong jails for drug trafficking.

Two Filipinos are likewise imprisoned in Pakistan.

One Filipino is serving her fifth year of an eight-year prison sentence in Palau.

In Malaysia and Japan, 188 Filipino women landed in prison for possession of drugs.

In Milan, two Filipinos were caught with drugs in their luggage.

In Copenhagen, airport authorities seized three kilos of cocaine from the bag of a Filipino.

Zubiri said a report by the Philippine Embassy in Brazil accompanying the DFA situationer indicated that many Filipino women had agreed to become "mules" because of the high pay.

"She could be paid anywhere between $15,000 to $25,000 per five kilos of cocaine, depending on the destination," Zubiri quoted figures from the embassy report. "At most, her take would be P1.4 million—more than she could earn in a lifetime of work here (in the Philippines). As a drug cartel delivery girl, her work is done in less than a day and she gets to fly business class."

Again citing the embassy report, Zubiri said that other Filipino women had fallen victim to foreigners who used them as drug couriers without their knowledge.

Gov't hopes to lure expat nurses back

By Blanche S. Rivera

ALARMED by the exodus of the country's nurses, the government will try to convince them to return to the Philippines after gaining experience abroad for several years.

Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, head of the University of the Philippines Manila Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies (IHPDS), said a technical working group has been created to study the migration of Filipino health workers and determine how to lure them back.

Lorenzo said the departments of labor and employment and foreign affairs, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, are working on a "nurse returning program" that could be implemented in three years.

"This is where we plan to track down where nurses go, see what their work benefits and life condition abroad are like... Hopefully, we can develop a program for those who have gone abroad and gained experience and are ready to come back," Lorenzo said in an interview.

She said nurses often had second thoughts about returning to the Philippines because of the limited employment opportunities and poor compensation package.

"We'll have jobs for them, maybe as clinical specialists. That's part of the career path," she said. "Of course, we can't match their salaries abroad but [the pay may be] higher [here] than the regular salary if they have acquired skills."

The POEA earlier admitted that more nurses were leaving the country than were being recorded in its registry because most of them were leaving not as overseas Filipino workers but as immigrants.

"We want to develop bilateral agreements between countries, not like now when the deployment is mediated by recruiters," Lorenzo said.

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Another test for freshmen

THE DEPARTMENT of Education is requiring all first-year public high school students to take the second High School Readiness Test on Aug. 31.

"HSRT-2 aims to identify the students who will be strongly advised and encouraged to go into the bridge program," said Undersecretary Ramon Bacani in a memo dated Aug. 17.

The bridge program was supposed to add a year of high school for students found wanting in English, Science and Math.

But because of strong opposition from parents and teachers, the DepEd made the program optional this school year.

Bacani said HSRT-2 would also check if the students had improved in English, Science and Math after two months in high school. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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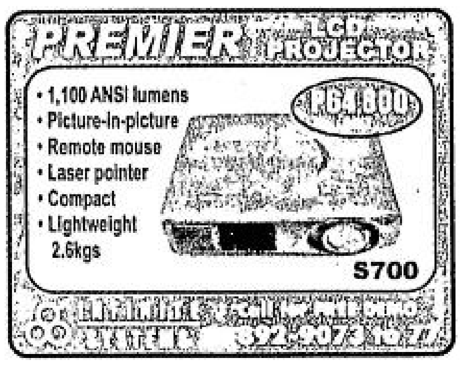
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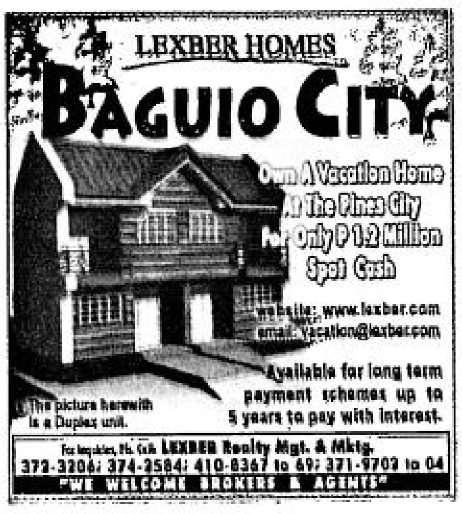
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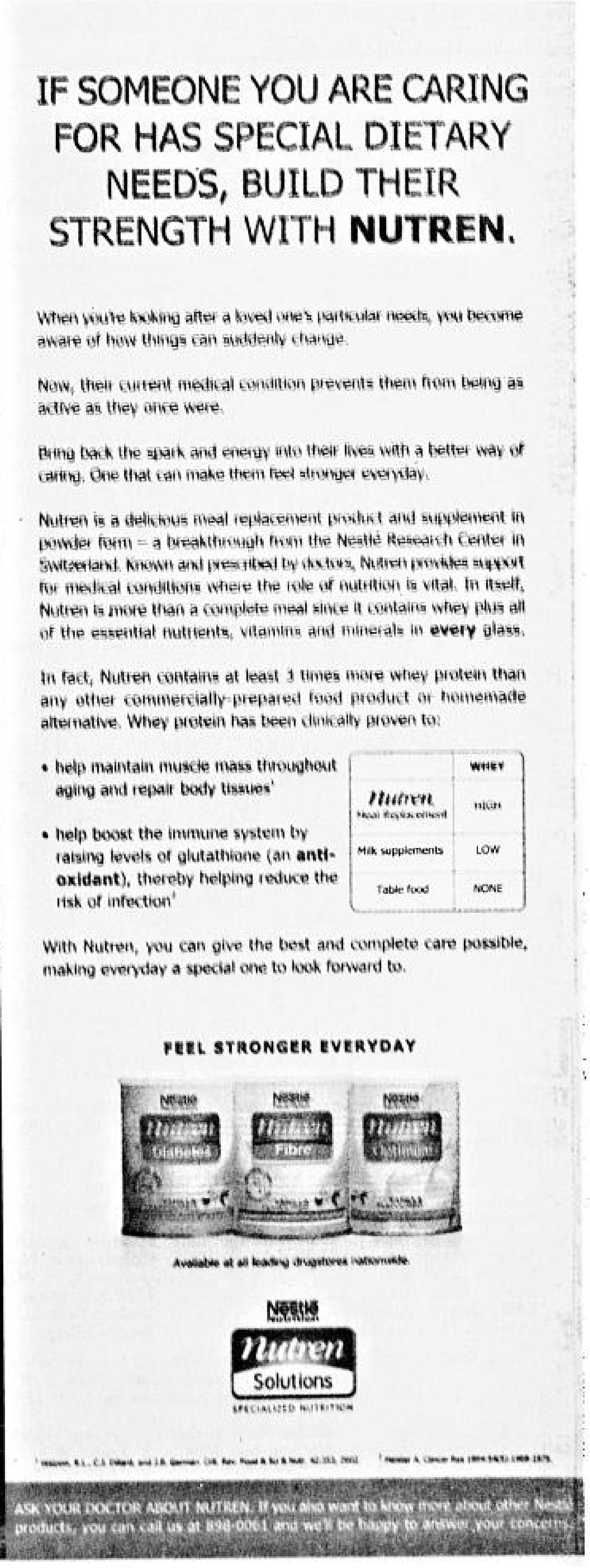
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Spot the differences in Edsa Shrine mural

From page A1

thing that "everybody" should be thankful for, according to the chief of the restoration group.

Fr. Gabriel Casal, director of the Archdiocesan Archives of Manila, told the INQUIRER that the mural "was not reproduced and sold"—which, he pointed out, would constitute the alleged violation. "What we did was consolidate and conserve what remained of the material after it was eaten by termites."

The artist, Nemesio "Nemi" Miranda Jr., has cried foul, saying the supposed restoration of his work, a depiction of the first Edsa Revolution, was undertaken without his permission or guidance.

The mural is one of his two commissioned pieces—the other is a relief sculpture—displayed at the shrine at the Our Lady of Peace Church on Edsa and Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City.

Miranda said the mural, executed in oil pastel and monochrome shades, lost tonal value and depth as a result of the retouching, and about 60 percent of the original piece was "completely altered."

The most horrific part, he said, was some essential portions were painted over in white.

Casal knew exactly what Miranda was referring to.

"It's really unfortunate that the parts showing the famous issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer was severely damaged," the Church official said. "There was no way the restorers could paint the front page of [that] Feb. 26, 1986 issue back into the mural. That would be unethical. So we left that part blank and painted over with the neutral color white."

Unethical? Try sacrilege, the artist said, because that was what retouching a painting amounted to if the artist who created it was still alive. Casal's group could have taken him in as consultant, he added. "I'm still around, after all."

A National Museum official told the INQUIRER that it was, indeed, an unwritten code that any art restoration should involve the original artist, if he's still alive.

Miranda maintained that his mural was "incomplete" unless all the vital details were intact. The INQUIRER banner on the "washed-over" issue had read: "It's all over; Marcos flees!"

Casal said his office did not seek the artist's permission or counsel, since the mural belonged to the shrine anyway, and the job was a request from Msgr. Socrates Villegas, rector of the church at the time.

"Everybody should be appreciative and grateful that the Edsa Shrine took the bother to have the mural restored," he said.

His contention is that Miranda gave up property rights over the painting after he was paid for it. The work was commissioned in 1989 by then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. It was installed on the upper wall of the shrine. In 1998, it was briefly removed for cleaning and restoration by Miranda himself.

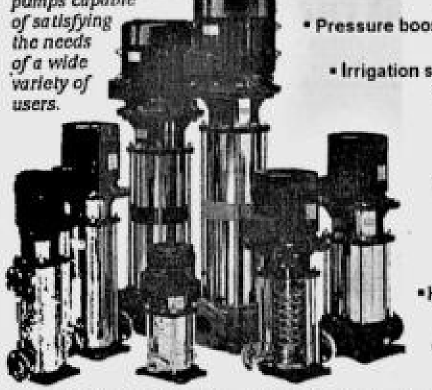
Late last year, Villegas sought Miranda's advice after the mural showed cracks and apparent termite damage. The artist submitted a proposal for simple cleaning with a budget of P300,000, or P1.8 million for a full restoration.

"The shrine could not afford that, so the job was given to us," Casal said. His group offered its services for free, he said, and in the end, the shrine spent only P400,000 for materials, transport and labor.

The mural was brought down in January and reinstalled in July.

But the shrine-goers noticed that the INQUIRER portion was missing. They said the mural also appeared "faded." They complained about "lots of white spaces."

Two weeks ago, Miranda wrote a letter to the shrine officials, demanding an explanation specifically on why he was not involved in the restoration.



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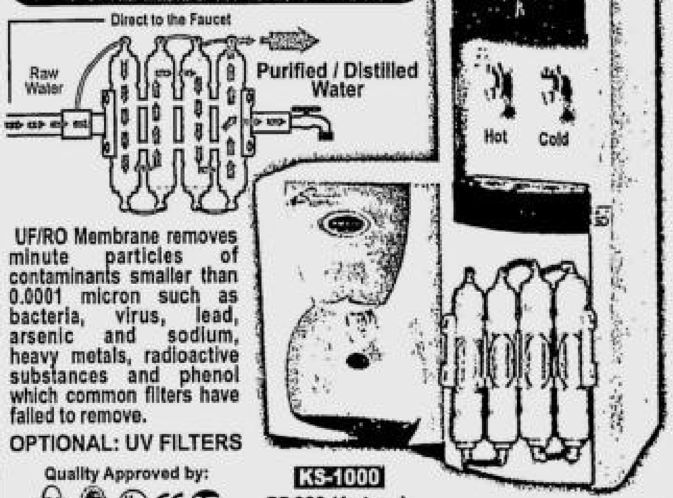

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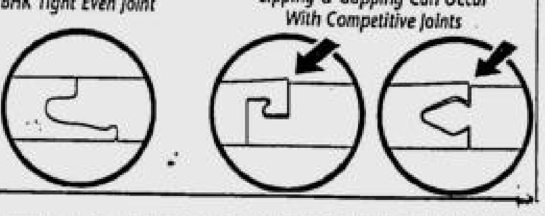

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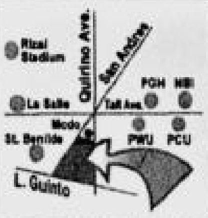

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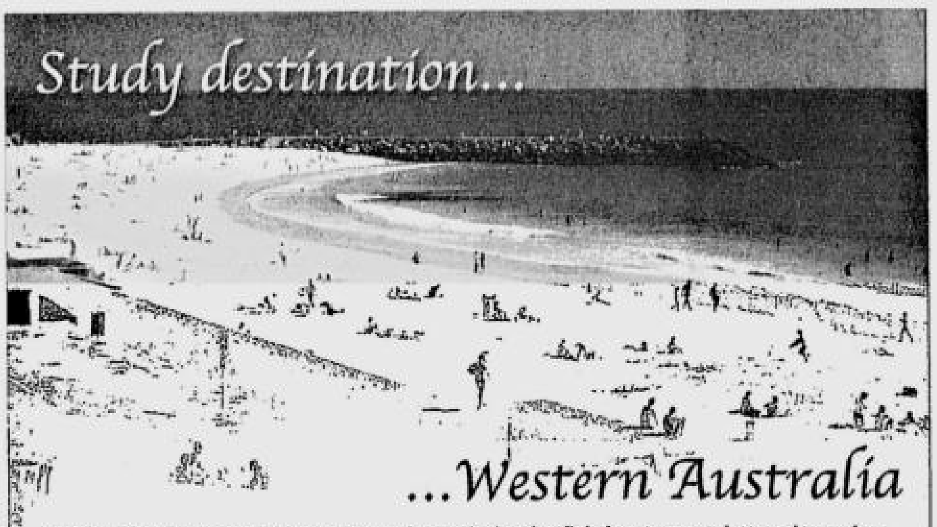

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bomb also downed 2nd Russian plane

MOSCOW—Russian investigators announced Saturday that explosives were found on both planes that crashed with the loss of 90 lives, as attention focused on the roles of two dead female passengers believed to be of Chechen origin.

The Russian press was quick to paint the pair as the latest in a line of female suicide bombers from the strife-torn Caucasus republic to strike, citing their suspected ethnic origins and the fact no relatives have come forward to claim their remains.

The crashes reinforced fears of attacks by Chechen extremists on an already nervous Russian public, with officials now suggesting Russia should copy the stringent security measures used by Israel on its flights.

While security services have made no link between the two women and the crashes, traces of the powerful explosive Hexogen were found in the fragments of both planes that crashed on flights to southern Russian cities late Tuesday.

"An additional analytical examination of fragments of the Tu-134 plane, which crashed Tuesday in the Tula district, showed traces of Hexogen," a spokesperson for Russia's FSB intelligence service said, according to Russian news agencies.

The same substance had been found a day earlier in the other plane, which fell to the ground near the city of Rostov-on-Don at an almost identical moment. Officials have already described that crash as an act of terror.

The FSB spokesperson said that state prosecutors would decide whether the Tula incident should also now be labelled as terrorism.

For the press, however, there was no doubt who was responsible for the attacks, which came just days ahead of Sunday's presidential elections in Chechnya to replace murdered president Akhmad Kadyrov.

The daily Izvestia spoke to an official in the home town of one of the women—a 27-year-old named as Amanta Nagayeva—who told the paper that one of her brothers had been taken away by security forces four years ago and never been heard of since.

"Amanta Nagayeva had a clear motive to die: by blowing herself and the plane up she avenged herself for her brother," it said, commenting that several past suicide bombings in Russia had been carried out by the wives or sisters of Chechen fighters.

The picture on the front page of the daily Kommersant—the eyes of a Muslim woman peering out between the narrow slit of a veil—was intended to lead its readers to only one conclusion.

Komsomolskaya Pravda also noted that the other woman, named only as S. Jebirkhanova, bought her ticket at the last moment and was the final passenger to board her flight.

Itar-Tass news agency reported that the remains of 45 of the 46 people aboard one of the planes had been identified. The only body still not identified was that of a woman, possibly Jebirkhanova, the report said.

The presumed remains of Nagayeva, found widely scattered over the crash site, have been sent to Moscow to check for traces of Hexogen.

Mikhail Vasilev, a Russian military expert on chemicals, told the Itar-Tass agency that it would only take 50 grams of Hexogen to blow a passenger jet out of the sky.

The media's alacrity to finger Chechen women as the perpetrators of the catastrophe reflects mounting nervousness in Russia about attacks by female suicide bombers from the breakaway republic.

Chechen women were among those who took hundreds hostage at a theater performance in 2002 and have also been responsible for deadly attacks at a rock concert and on a public pavement close to the Kremlin over the past year.

Meanwhile, in an admission of the urgent need to step up security on domestic flights, the transport ministry announced on Saturday that it would now be compulsory to have passengers' passport details on their tickets. *AFP*

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World more peaceful despite war headlines

By Charles J. Hanley

NEW YORK—The chilling sights and sounds of war fill newspapers and television screens worldwide, but war itself is in decline, peace researchers report.

In fact, the number killed in battle has fallen to its lowest point in the post-World War II period, dipping below 20,000 a year by one measure. Peacemaking missions, meantime, are growing in number.

"International engagement is blossoming," said US scholar Monty Marshall. "There's been an enormous amount of activity to try to end these conflicts."

For months the battle reports and casualty tolls from Iraq and Afghanistan have put war in the headlines, but Swedish and Canadian NGOs tracking armed conflict globally find a general decline in numbers from peaks in the 1990s.

Drop in conflicts

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute says 19 major armed conflicts were under way worldwide in 2003, a sharp drop from 33 wars counted in 1991. The Canadian organization Project Ploughshares, using broader criteria to define armed conflict, says in its new annual report that the number of conflicts declined to 36 in 2003, from a peak of 44 in 1995.

The Stockholm institute counts continuing wars that have produced 1,000 or more battle-related deaths in any single year. Project Ploughshares counts any armed conflict that produces 1,000 such deaths cumulatively.

The Stockholm report, to be released next month, notes three wars were ended as of 2003—in Angola, Rwanda and Somalia—and a fourth, the separatist war in India's Assam state, was dropped from the "major" category after casualties were recalculated.

3 new wars

It lists three new wars in 2003—in Liberia and in Sudan's western region of Darfur, along with the US-British invasion of Iraq. These joined such long-running conflicts as the Kashmiri insurgency in India, the leftist guerrilla war in Colombia, and the separatist war in Russia's Chechnya region.

Other major armed conflicts listed by the Stockholm researchers were in Algeria, Burundi, Peru, Indonesia's Aceh province, Burma, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Israel and Turkey. Their list also includes the US-al-Qaida war, mainly in Afghanistan; the unresolved India-Pakistan conflict, and two insurgencies in the Philippines.

Intensity also declines

"Not only are the numbers declining, but the intensity"—the bloodshed in each conflict—"is declining," said Marshall, founder of a University of Maryland program studying political violence.

The continuing wars in Algeria, Chechnya and Turkey are among those that have subsided into low-intensity conflicts. At Canada's University of British Columbia, scholars at the Human Security Center are quantifying this by tackling the difficult task of calculating war casualties worldwide for their Human Security Report, to be released late in 2004.

A collaboration with Sweden's Uppsala University, that report will conservatively estimate battle-related deaths worldwide at 15,000 in 2002 and, because of the Iraq war, rising to 20,000 in 2003. Those estimates are sharply down from annual tolls ranging from 40,000 to 100,000 in the 1990s, a time of major costly conflicts in such places as the former Zaire and southern Sudan, and from a post-World War II peak of 700,000 in 1951.

End of Cold War

Why the declines? Peace scholars point to crosscurrents of global events.

For one thing, the Cold War's end and breakup of the Soviet Union in 1989-91 ignited civil and separatist wars in the old East bloc and elsewhere, as the superpowers' hands were lifted in places where they'd long held allies in check. Those wars surged in the early 1990s.

At the same time, however, the US-Russian thaw worked against war as well, scholars said, by removing superpower support in "proxy wars," as in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Cambodia. With dwindling money and arms, warmakers had to seek peace.

The United Nations and regional bodies, meanwhile, were mobilizing for more effective peacemaking worldwide.

"The end of the Cold War liberated the UN"—historically paralyzed by US-Soviet antagonism—"to do what its founders had originally intended and more," Mack said.

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2 French journalists kidnapped

Iraqi abductors demand France rescind head scarf ban

KIDNAPPED French reporter Georges Malbrunot (right) of Le Figaro newspaper and French radio reporter Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale (RFI). AP

CAIRO, Egypt—Islamic militants released a brief tape showing two French journalists kidnapped recently in Iraq and said they were holding the men to protest a French law banning head scarves in schools, according to footage aired by an Arab TV station.

The station, Al-Jazeera, said Saturday that the group gave the French government 48 hours to overturn the law but mentioned no ultimatum.

Christian Chesnot of Radio France-Internationale, or RFI, and Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro newspaper and RTL radio have not been in touch with their employers since Aug. 19, the French Foreign Ministry said last week.

The station's news reader said the group described the French law banning religious apparel in public schools as "an aggression on the Islamic religion and personal freedoms."

The tape, lasting 3-4 seconds, showed the men separately, each standing in front of a black background emblazoned in red with the group's name, the Islamic Army in Iraq, in Arabic. The tape did not give the hostages' names, but their employers in France later identified them.

Chesnot appeared first, saying in poor Arabic that "we are being held by the Islamic Army in Iraq."

The tape then showed Malbrunot. "First of all, I want to tell my family that all is well and we are being treated well," he says in French just before the tape cuts off.

France's Foreign Ministry issued a brief statement calling for the journalists' release. "The services of the French Embassy in Baghdad, like the French authorities, are mobilized more than ever. Once again, we call for the liberation of the two French journalists."

Sheik Abdulsattar Abduljawad, from the Association of Muslim Scholars, an influential Sunni Muslim group believed to have links to insurgents, also called for their release—and for concessions by the French government.

"We call the Islamic Army in Iraq to free the French hostages and ask the French government to cancel their decision forbidding the wearing of the Hijab (the head scarf)," he told Al-Jazeera early Sunday.

The French law, which takes effect Wednesday, forbids public school students from wearing religious apparel and "conspicuous" signs showing their religious affiliation. That includes Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

French authorities have made clear, however, that the ban is aimed at removing Islamic head scarves from classrooms. The law sparked protests at home and abroad, with many Muslims saying they felt unfairly targeted.

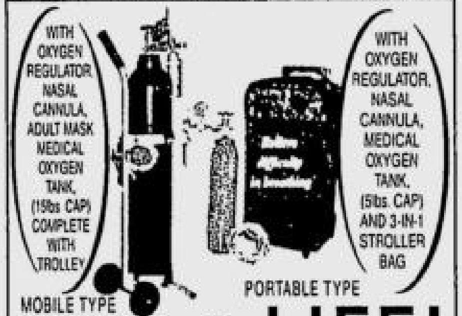
Dalil Boubakeur, president of the umbrella group the French Council for the Muslim Faith, said he was "stunned" by the "brutal gravity of this situation."

"I hope that links aren't drawn with the Muslim community in France, which is totally innocent," he told LCI television. "This challenge is an act to be condemned."

The last time the reporters checked in, they were in Baghdad, RFI said. LCI television said they were last sighted about 20 miles outside Baghdad, on the road heading to Najaf.

Because of the video, "we know that they have been taken hostage," said Jacques Esnous, RTL editorial director.

"We saw that they are in good health, but we also saw that they have an appalling sword of Damocles hanging above them," he told The Associated Press. "The terrible decision rests with the government." *AP*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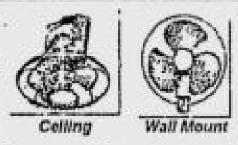

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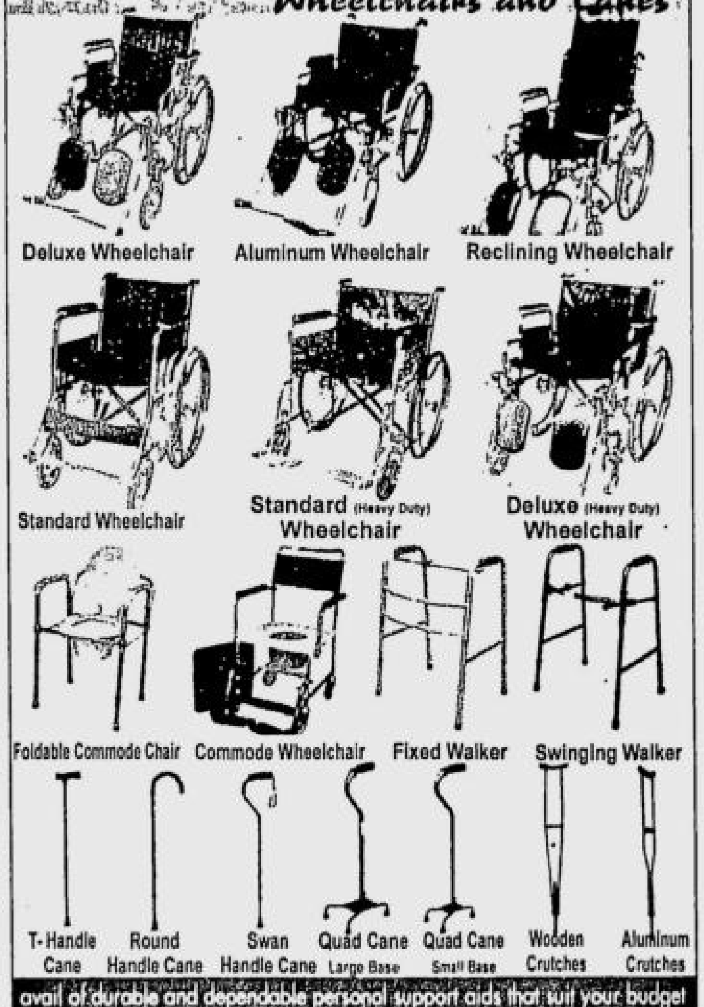

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Deficit talk

EDITORIAL

LOST in the exchange of press releases over the cutting of the pork barrel is the size of next year's budget deficit. One would think that, given all this hand-wringing over the alleged or actual fiscal crisis, Malacañang will submit a national budget shaped by a sense of urgency. One would think that, given the President's Inauguration Day promise to balance the budget by the time she leaves office, the first year of her full term would be funded by a much-reduced budget deficit.

It makes sense, doesn't it? To reach that point—a mere six years down the road—where government spending will match government income, the government must already begin to substantially narrow the gap between expenditure and revenue.

But last week Malacañang proposed a P907.6-billion budget for 2005. To fund this, the government recommends incurring a deficit of P185 billion.

This amount is only P13 billion, or some 6.5 percent, less than this year's projected deficit of P198 billion. And if this administration's track record is anything to go by, we can expect the gap between what the government will spend next year and the income it will generate to widen before 2005 is up.

So what gives? Are we truly on the brink of a fiscal crisis? The General Appropriations bill presented on Wednesday says we aren't. Are we on our way to a balanced budget? The bill says we aren't particularly serious about reaching that destination either.

To be sure, deficit spending is not necessarily a bad thing. To keep an economy from falling into a recession, for instance, a government may temporarily spend more than it earns. But the issue is whether the proposed budget reflects the reality, the fiscal crisis, we face.

Speaker Jose de Venecia once again displayed his distinctive brand of glass-is-half-full optimism when he described the proposed budget as "prudent, spartan, and reformist."

But the same budget can also be described as timid, pyrrhic, and traditional. It is traditional because it does not envision, say, a major reduction in the government workforce. It is timid because it funds social-sector initiatives that can best be described as token or as watered-down versions of the President's campaign promises. It is pyrrhic because its cost-cutting here and there allows government officials a false sense of accomplishment. In fact, not enough costs were cut.

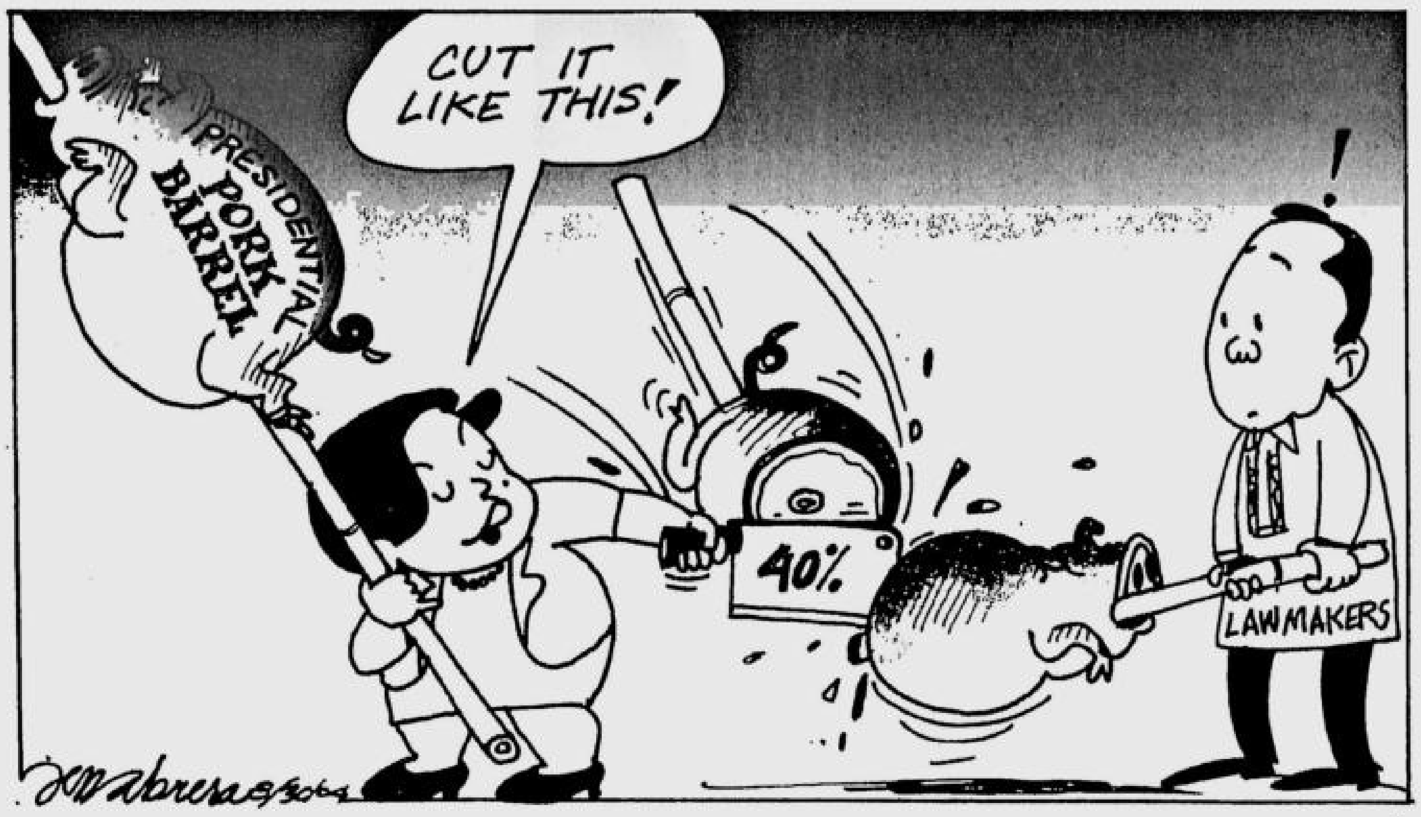
The total budget is some 5.3 percent, or P46 billion, higher than this year's. Many business-minded Filipinos would dismiss the increase as merely keeping pace with inflation. But if the national government were a business enterprise, it would be hard put to justify any increase. If (to translate the numbers into dollars) a business firm spent $3.3 billion more than it earned in one year, keeping up with inflation would be the last thing on its managers' mind. The issue would be sheer survival.

So the question arises: If we are truly in the midst of a fiscal crisis, as the President said, why do we even provide for an increase in the national budget?

At least a third of the budget goes to pay for part of the principal and much of the interest of the various debts the government has accumulated over the years, since the Marcos dictatorship. Because many of these debts are denominated in foreign currencies, the amount for payment can increase in the next year through foreign exchange fluctuations alone. But—the counter-argument goes—if we don't increase the budget by a few billions, the money left over after paying for debt service would be that much smaller. There would be less money for the repair of bridges, the construction of farm-to-market roads, the publication of math and science textbooks, and so on ad nauseam.

To which the only answer can be: But that, in part, is what a fiscal crisis means. The already tough task of allocating scarce resources becomes even more difficult. Touch choices must be taken, beginning with the decision to bake a smaller pie.

Of course, even if the P46 billion increase were to be factored out, the proposed budget would still incur a deficit of P139 billion. Not exactly loose change, but a reduction in the deficit of almost 30 percent is a step in the right direction.



Tax structure favors the rich, punishes the poor

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

EVERYBODY is saying we should all sacrifice to get out of the fiscal crisis, but no one is willing to do it first. "Why me? You first," is the name of the game.

The President says Congress should pass new tax measures, cut the pork barrel, and reduce the internal revenue allotments (IRA) for local government units (LGUs). Legislators say the President should cut her own pork barrel first. The LGUs say "Cut your pork but don't touch our IRA."

And the taxpayers say "Wait a minute, reduce your expenses and collect existing taxes first before you make us pay more."

With such hemming and hawing, we will never get out of the mess.

In the first place, shouldn't it be our leaders who should show the way in making sacrifices? That is why they are called leaders; they should lead.

In the second place, the followers, the taxpayers, cannot take the lead in paying more taxes because they have nothing with which to pay more. Millions don't even have enough money to buy food to keep body and soul together. Taxpayers have long been in fiscal crises. But whether they like it or not, they will still be made to pay the tax increases. Like death, no one can avoid taxes.

A tariff hike on imported crude oil will affect everybody, from the very rich to the poorest of the poor—those who have no income at all. For if you increase taxes on oil, the prices of foodstuff and everything else also go up. For one, all products have to be transported to market outlets. With oil becoming more expensive, transportation costs go up. Secondly, electricity generation also uses oil. And factories use electricity to manufacture their products. With electricity rates going up, so do the production costs. So manufacturers have to sell their products at higher costs.

A tax on a basic commodity like oil is the worst type of taxation. It is regressive for it goes against the principle that taxes should be imposed on those who can afford it.

Let's face it, our tax structure favors the rich and punishes the poor. Do you know that our super-rich, the billionaires that Forbes Magazine listed as the richest in Asia, pay only a maximum of 30 percent on their income? The middle class already pays 30-percent income tax. I pay that much, and I am eons away from the billionaires' league.

Of course, President Macapagal-Arroyo brought us to this mess all by her lonesome in her first term by her spendthrift ways, but Congress shares a part of the blame.

It was Congress that lowered the maximum income tax rate from the original 70 percent to only 30 percent. It was Congress that regularly increased its own pork barrel. It was Congress that increased the IRA from the original 15 or 20 percent to the present 40 percent. Because the Speaker then was running for national office and the congressmen for reelection, they courted the voters by raising the IRA to 30 percent. Not to be outdone, the Senate increased it to 45 percent. Even the selfish legislators realized that this was too much, so the IRA was eventually lowered to the present 40 percent. That is too much for some local government units but still too little for others.

And that is the basic flaw of the Local Government Code, which fixes the share of LGUs at a uniform 40 percent of national taxes paid in their jurisdictions. Rich cities, like Makati and Quezon City, which already collect more than enough local taxes, don't need the IRA. Yet, because the law says so, they still get theirs every year. They have more money than they know what to do. Quezon City, which has increased its real estate and business taxes, has more than P2 billion in excess funds in the bank. Makati is lending its own billions to other LGUs—with interest.

On the other hand, for poor provinces and municipalities, where tax collections from poorer taxpayers are less, the 40 percent share is not enough. They get smaller IRAs—although technically rich and poor LGUs all get a uniform 40 percent.

This is so because 40 percent of peanuts is even less peanuts. The uniform IRA rate, therefore, favors the rich LGUs at the expense of the poorer ones. The rich cities that already collect big direct taxes get a proportionately bigger 40 percent of the IRA.

Thus, well-developed cities (e.g., Makati and QC) get too much money while poor provinces (e.g., Sulu) get too little. But poor provinces need more farm-to-market roads but have little money for them. Rich cities, on the other hand, have no more space for additional roads. So they just tear up existing roads—although still in perfectly good condition—and pave them anew just to give their friendly contractors jobs.

Two tax reforms, therefore, should be introduced: the restoration of the 70 percent maximum rate on income tax, and the allocation of IRA on the basis of need. Poor LGUs should get more and the rich ones should get less.

The pork barrel is in the same anomaly. Each congressman annually gets a uniform P69-million fund for his district. Where will the congressmen of Makati use that in their districts? Where will the congressman for Batanes, which has a smaller population than a barangay in an urban area, spend his yearly P69 million?

This is where much of the wastage of public funds takes place. So much money is wasted on unnecessary projects. That is why, all over the country, there are so many waiting sheds, welcome arches and basketball courts, with the names of the lawmakers prominently painted on them.

Lead by example

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ON MY way to the market to buy rice last week, I heard the newscaster on radio say Malacañang was proposing that motorists give up their car one more day in addition to their mandatory car-less day. The collective savings in fuel, the announcer quoted Ignacio Bunye echoing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, would do the country a world of good.

I personally have no problems with that proposal. I take the MRT each time I go to Makati, finding it faster, cheaper and infinitely more pleasant. It is also good exercise, walking up and down those stairs—though that little excuses the MRT officials from providing better facilities for the elderly and disabled. The elevator is enough to give you claustrophobia from the sheer length of time it takes to crawl down three floors.

But I have a problem with Malacañang proposing the additional car-less day without proposing the same thing for its officials. To this day, nothing pisses me off than the sight of sleek black cars, lights blinking angrily, being escorted by motorcycle cops and waving everybody off to the side. I've had that happen to me several times, the cops glaring at me for not obeying them promptly. They are more civil with better-looking cars. Clearly, they do not regard banged-up 11-year-old cars as a sign of austerity, or living within one's means. They regard them as a sign of powerlessness and an invitation to be shoved aside.

Elsewhere in the world, public officials wait their turn in traffic, the better to understand how their constituents live. I have no problem giving up my car entirely if that is what it will take to help this country regain its footing. My question is, will government officials do the same?

The day I hear that the Cabinet secretaries, senators and congressmen will implement a car pool, or take the public transport one day in a week—the better to discover new insights into the meaning of poverty—is the day I drive my car to the junk shop.

The point is simple: You want to teach, teach by example. There is no better, or other, way to. Parents can lecture their kids all they want about the virtues of reading and improving their minds, but if all they do is watch TV and play mahjong, their lectures will go for naught. What the kids will learn will be to watch TV and play mahjong. Government officials may cajole the public into living spartanly over the next few years, giving up their small luxuries and creature comforts to stave off impending doom; but if they fly to Hong Kong to rest their weary bones (which got weary to begin with from finding creative excuses—like school kids—to attend the cockpit in lieu of Congress) and refuse to give up their pork, all their cajoling will go for naught. All the public will learn is the vice of cynicism.

Example is the most powerful pedagogical device there is. How you do is what you teach.

This is particularly incumbent upon GMA because she is one of the major causes of the impeding collapse of the economy. This case is exactly like Angelo de la Cruz: We may not forget that GMA, who proposes to rescue us, is the reason we are threatened with beheading to begin with. Unlike the rains that poured down on Metro Manila last week and caused untold damage, apart from lost office and school hours, the fiscal crisis is not godsend, it is wrought by human hand. Arguably, GMA did not create the budget deficit. It was already threatening to blow in the country's face over the last decade. But she did nothing to avert it. On the contrary, she did everything to hasten it.

It was under her watch that tax collection fell to record lows. Which alone was the clearest sign she was going to run again—she didn't want to piss off the rich and powerful by taxing them to death. And it was under her watch that government became obsessed not with fighting very real poverty but with fighting phantom terrorists. All government did during her first three and a half years was to fatten the military and embark on military adventurism, whose first casualty was Angelo de la Cruz. And it was under her watch—though watch is rich with irony here—that the treasury was bankrupted to make sure she would get a second term.

No, the impending disaster is not God-made, it is woman-made.

Of course the senators and congressmen should do their bit to prevent it. That, quite incidentally, is my beef with the party-list congressmen who argue that their CDF may not be slashed because they are putting it to good use, such as adding a wing to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Other congressmen can make the same claim. The pork is either slashed, or scrapped, universally or not at all. And, of course, the people should do their bit to scrimp and save for the nation. I remember in this respect Asyong Aksaya, the character popularized in the '70s by the martial law government, the profligate fellow everyone was encouraged not to emulate. This may be a good time to revive him.

But the onus rests on government, and GMA in particular. Asyong Aksaya does remind us of yet one more thing, which is that while the martial law government was encouraging everyone to shun a profligate lifestyle, its officials were flagrantly flaunting it. GMA wants to help prevent the crisis, she should stop badgering others to sacrifice for the nation—especially the local officials, whom she wants to deprive of the IRA—and impose an ascetic lifestyle on herself and her official family. The better to make an act of contrition for her sins. In fact, by way of example, the first thing she should do is give up her own P1 billion contingency fund—you can't find any bigger contingency than the one we're facing today. One is tempted to say, she should give up her husband as well, to help the country save billions.

But that is not making a sacrifice, that is rewarding oneself.

Taking stock

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS the Olympic Games in Athens wind up, the Philippines ought to take stock of its direction in this international sports summit. Athens has shown off the sports might of China which has bagged 31 gold medals as of yesterday, just three short of the US record of 34 golds. China came in second place in a slow but determined rise to dominance in world sports since landing 4th in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Today, world sports media are agog about China's boast that Athens was just a preview of what to expect in Beijing in 2008, where it hopes to beat the United States.

* * *

Japan and South Korea didn't do badly either. As of yesterday, Japan had grabbed 15 gold medals—one gold less than the 16 it won in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics—while South Korea had eight. Lower in the totem pole was Thailand with three golds, Taiwan two and Indonesia one. These six are the only Asian countries to snare gold medals. China and Japan succeeded in topping European countries, such as Germany, France and Great Britain, that (with the United States), used to dominate the Olympics. Russia at first lagged behind but rallied last weekend to land at No. 3.

* * *

The Philippines didn't get a single medal in any of the 301 events in 28 sports. India, North Korea and a few other Asian countries won either silver or bronze. This dismal record calls for a total revamp of our present sports officialdom and development program. Critically so because we are hosting once again the Southeast Asian Games where we haven't done well either. Judging from the example of other countries that did well in the Olympics, the problem boils down to several points.

We must have a sports body that knows what it's doing and,is dedicated to training our athletes better; this also means we should narrow down our participation to sports where we have done fairly well in the past, and concentrate our resources on those events. For instance, in some events, we would never be able to beat the physically bigger and longer-limbed athletes. But there are a number of sports where we have a better chance (participants are classified according to weight), such as, boxing, taekwondo, table tennis and gymnastics; and as Jennifer Figueroa also showed us, we can be good in archery.

We also have to widen the base in our search for the best and the most promising athletes. The annual Palaro is a good beginning. Having identified the best athletes in each region preferably while they're still young, let's support their training over a longer period with world-class trainers here and abroad. Maybe we can't produce a gold medalist for Beijing yet, but we can target future Olympiads.

* * *

Such a program, however, needs judicious funding, as much as honest and dedicated officials. In this regard, the government should encourage partnership with the private sector. There must be some successful businessmen willing to help fund the training of our athletes if only for love of country. In fact, a citizen has proposed to this columnist: Why not an "Adopt an athlete program" for our businessmen? Part of the success of the Japanese athletes in the recent Olympics was the support they got from the Japanese business community, but that's another story.

* * *

A top Chinese sports official acknowledged that while China's 1.3 billion population might be difficult for its economic growth, it provides the broadest pool for the selection of Olympic talents that are now propelling China to superpower status in sports. Interestingly, new Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong now also supports a reinvigorated population drive if the island state is to survive competition from countries with huge populations, like China and India. In fact, reports say Lee's recent major policy speech centered mainly on procreation. He announced a series of new measures to encourage couples to have children, e.g., increase of the mandatory maternity leave from eight to 12 weeks and a "baby bonus" ranging from roughly $5,260 to $10,525 to parents having a third and fourth child, and those having their first.

* * *

Singapore is adopting the "baby bonuses" after its birth rates fell as a result of decades of implementation of a strict birth control policy, as it raced to prosperity. Since the '80s, it has recognized the harmful effects of this policy on its economy; in a complete turn-around, it now shifts to high gear its campaign to promote marriage and procreation. Reports say, that last year, birth rates fell to a record low of 1.26 per woman, well below the 2.1 necessary to keep the country's population going; marriages dropped 5 percent while divorce rates shot up.

There doesn't seem to be a quick fix to Singapore's problem. Explaining why they are delaying marriage and their having children, many young people cite the high cost of rearing children and the impact on their lifestyles.

* * *

The problem of Singapore and European countries with sharply falling birth rates and lengthening life expectancies is a lesson for those who seek to control population growth through state intervention. Definitely our population problem has to be rationalized, but not through legislation. It should be by means of economics in the positive sense, and this is a challenge to our legislators. Give our married couples a more vigorous economic and business climate and the birth rates will drop on their own accord, as South Korea has learned. This includes decongesting the cities and stimulating the countryside (where population is very sparse) with economic activity, and conducting an education campaign among the uneducated. Then nature will take care of itself.

Double entendres

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

"WOW Philippines" may no longer just signify a tourist in awe of our country's sights. The country's tourism slogan now has double meaning, another interpretation. "WOW Philippines" may now be used to express one's awe at how local officials can break the law in the name of tourism and get away with it. And for the additional meaning, we have to be grateful to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Y. Emano.

Last year, Emano started to transform the city's century-old Plaza Divisoria, a tree-lined promenade in the center of old Cagayan that was built in 1901; on two nights each weekend, the historic plaza fills with makeshift stalls and barbecue pits that serve nothing but booze and drinks.

With such enticing fare, there would be little difficulty attracting habitués. Emano's "Night Café"—the misnomer that he has called this glorified beer garden (another double entendre)—oozes each night with young people, some not even old enough by legal statutes to be served with alcoholic drinks. This "Night Café" is right at the doorstep of the city's most venerable educational institution, Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. In fact, the Jesuit university's emblem and motto of *"Veritas Liberabit Vos"* looks down all lighted up at Emano's masses in their drunken stupor.

For about a year now, while a raucous band plays music and Xavier-Ateneo students in their identifiable school uniforms revel in Emano's bacchanalia, no word has been heard from this Jesuit institution at whose halls we once were taught our so-called Atenean social conscience.

Emano's paean to Bacchus begins just before 5 o'clock in the afternoon on Fridays and Saturdays. Traffic at the Plaza is then closed, aggravating an already chaotic traffic situation that to this day has become even more chaotic with the mayor's utter lack of political will to institute changes. The alcoholic frenzy and rock music go on till the wee hours of the morning. By that time, the Plaza is reeking with puddles of urine. Perhaps it is just as well. The smell has probably become the symbol of what tourists and guests have complained of once beautiful Cagayan de Oro as the dirtiest city this side of the archipelago.

Late last year, just before the campaign period started, Emano hung a huge tarpaulin of "WOW Philippines" that sported his and Dick Gordon's faces, promoting the "Night Café" as a novel destination for "WOW Philippines."

There is, however, a city ordinance, legislated in 1994, that prohibits drinking establishments from locating within a distance of 200 linear meters from educational and church institutions. The local legislation even lifts authority from Republic Act 938, as amended by RA 1224, which prohibits such establishments within a 50-meter radius of such institutions.

Perhaps, only in the Philippines do we find government officials getting away with such violations of law. Well, almost. Recall that last year Emano went for the destruction of the prehistoric Huluga heritage site. This caught the attention of the national media. He eventually lost in the administrative case filed against him by the Heritage Conservation Advocates and was penalized for it by the Environmental Management Bureau of Region 10.

In his usual "face-lifting" style, Emano tried to blunt the complaints of the owners of nearby business establishments, who, not surprisingly, got crabby at the deplorable urine puddles on their sidewalks; he built comfort rooms. But of all places (and this is the horror of horrors), on the space right below Andres Bonifacio's monument, where the bones of Cagayan's 1900 revolutionaries in the Filipino-American War are entombed. Sacrilege is not only for matters of theology. And this is not just a simple case of bad and bawdy taste, which it also is.

Perhaps that is one problem with term limits. Emano is not a native of Cagayan de Oro. He ran for mayor of the city after his three-year term limit as governor of Misamis Occidental province had been exhausted. It goes without saying that his record in Cagayan de Oro does not speak well of a sincere appreciation of its historic heritage to which he has no sense of connection. Observers have opined that he has reportedly started to groom his non-Cagay-anon son Bambi as his successor. The scaffoldings for Bambi's new house in Villa Ernesto have reportedly started to rise; the anointed progeny can yet meet the "residency" (another double entendre) requirement for 2007. If true, that will probably be another nine years of heritage destruction for this now decrepit and decadent city. By that time, we would have become the New Argentina.

Now, a civil society coalition, Sangga Kagayanon, has protested by finally speaking out, albeit belatedly, in the name of the legal statutes that prohibit this kind of exploitation of our young. The coalition's position paper has called for a stop to the tomfoolery. Its meetings were held right inside the Xavier-Ateneo campus. Will the Xavier-Ateneo Jesuits finally speak out this time? Otherwise, the school motto will be in for another double entendre. And unlike in the Huluga heritage site debacle, Malacañang may no longer come to Emano's defense. Gloria lost miserably in Cagayan de Oro, so a presidential cold shoulder is what the city is currently getting. Scuttlebutt has it that some unnamed people switched to FPJ in the last minute and went away with a huge cache from a big man. And the Little Woman is mad like hell.

Are we truly a nation of cheats and lawbreakers? A rhetorical question, there. And they're no double entendres.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Beautiful

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

EVERY year, on the birthday of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, the Magsaysays would hold an open house. The day would begin, as it does for most Filipino Catholics celebrating an important anniversary, with a Mass. Then the Magsaysays would visit the president's tomb (an identical copy of the old tombs of Quezon and Roxas) in the North Cemetery, and then come back home for breakfast. Even as they would be on their way to the cemetery, old friends would already be in the sala of Mrs. Luz Magsaysay's home, and the numbers would ebb and flow through the whole morning.

I was quite young when I first experienced the annual open house at the Magsaysays, and the experience was memorable. The home of the first lady in Wack-Wack was simple, spacious and gracious: its chief adornment, a copy of Llamas' famous portrait of Ramon Magsaysay. There, I gawked as I met, for the first time, the members of the late president's family.

Presently, I heard sirens and rushed to the window, there to see an approaching black car of early 1960s vintage, preceded by two motorcycle escorts. A lady emerged from the car and went into the house. It was Mrs. Luz Magsaysay.

As she entered her home, people went up to greet her, and the first thing I noticed was her smile. She had a very kind smile, not the put-on or the forced type. She was apparently a quiet woman, but not a timid one; she had that rare kind of manner that was a perfect combination of the kind of friendly politeness that invites respect but not over-familiarity.

She went into her room, seemingly to change clothes. About a half hour later she emerged and sat on a chair as people buzzed around her. Most of her time was spent inquiring after the health of her guests, and making sure they and their staff had enough to eat.

It would be like this every year—I suppose, every year since her husband's death. The last time I was in a Magsaysay open house, it was obvious age had begun to catch up with her. She was talking about some exercises she had been encouraged to do, and playfully demonstrated them—they seemed to involve small pedaling motions and she remarked how it made her resemble one of her grandchildren as a baby. Her banter was playful; there would be a twinkle in her eye as someone described the quirks of a mutual acquaintance. And yet, as an editorial written after her death put it, "She had a fine and occasionally naughty sense of humor, though she would quickly withdraw at the slightest suggestion of malice"—perfectly true. Hers was the humor of one who has seen it all, but refuses to become jaded, and for whom all humor is meant to entertain, not to tear down.

She was also, as so many have described her, elegant and tasteful in a manner we hardly see today. Unostentatiously so, and devoid of pretence. At the Ramon Magsaysay Awards which would culminate on President Magsaysay's birthday, she would invariably appear in the national dress, exemplifying the good taste and stateliness of the national costume.

When her husband tragically lost his life, he was in the full flower of his manhood, not even 50 years old. Mrs. Magsaysay survived him by over four decades. Most of those years were lived quietly and without fuss. It would have been interesting to know what she thought of what her husband's successors had done with the Republic her husband had saved.

Upon her passing, I told an officemate I was going to attend her wake. To this she asked, "Who is Mrs. Magsaysay?" I told her that the first lady of President Magsaysay had died, and my officemate's response was a sort of unbelieving "Is that so?"

On my way to the wake, I ended up musing on how time erodes all memory, making what was once so vivid so remote, so sadly unbelievable. A friend accompanying me to the wake, upon the sight of the honor guard, was intimidated and didn't dare approach the coffin—how ironic, I thought.

But as we were on our way out, after I had paid my respects, we paused by a photo display at the wake, and my friend exclaimed, "Oh, but she was so beautiful!" We were looking at photographs of a young Luz Magsaysay—dressed in striking *ternos*—either at her husband's side or in poses calculated to be formal, set as they were in the splendor of the Palace, which her smile managed to make warm.

Her photographs were beautiful, indeed. Her poise in them was not contrived; there was no aspiring actress artifice in her being portrayed even in the most formal of surroundings. Memories fade; those who knew her well are almost all gone; those who met her are dwindling, too, in number. But even if all that is left of her are photographs in places now long gone (the Palace of her day was demolished in the 1970s); photographs with people also long gone and even forgotten; photographs dating back to a time so different and remote as to seem fictitious to present-day Filipinos; still, the photographs somehow speak.

My friend put it best: "She and her husband look like they genuinely cared." No finer praise could Mrs. Magsaysay or her husband have asked of a countryman.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Accuracy complaint against a columnist

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LAST July 3 and 6, 2004, the Inquirer column "Breaktime" discussed the alleged plan of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJC), the operator of a racetrack in Carmona, Cavite, to conduct an initial public offering of its stocks and its cash flow problems.

On Aug. 9, MJC wrote a letter to the newspaper complaining about certain inaccuracies in the columns and requested that its letter be published so its investors would be properly apprised of the situation in the corporation. A copy of MJC's letter was faxed to the columnist by a Business section assistant on the same day it was received.

The columnist did not take up the letter in his two succeeding columns. That's his privilege. He cannot be forced to do so.

A columnist who is the subject of a complaint for inaccuracy may either reproduce the letter without any comments or rebut its salient points in his column. He can ignore the complaint if he wants to, and he does not have to explain his action to anyone in the editorial staff. He only has his conscience to answer to for not giving the aggrieved subject of his column the opportunity to have his side read by the public.

Under the Inquirer policies, if a copy of that "unattended" letter is also sent to the Opinion editor or readers' advocate, it can be published in the Letters section or this column, depending on its merits and the availability of space.

The letter will be published without the side of the columnist (as against one that involves a story written by a reporter) because the columnist is deemed to have waived that right by his failure to write about the complaint in his column.

In the case of reporters, their side is included in the published letter because they do not have any opportunity elsewhere in the newspaper to be able to do that. The newspaper's credibility will suffer if the reporter does not clarify the complained inaccuracy.

MJC's letter

Thus, for the reasons earlier stated, we are reproducing MJC's response to some of the items written in the subject columns:

"We are writing you to set straight the allegations made by Mr. Conrado Banal in his two articles entitled 'Contract Sport' and 'Inhuman Race,' respectively published in the July 3 and 6, 2004 issues of your newspaper, as follows:

"1. It is not true that MJC owes PNCDC additional payments.

"He alleged that MJC has yet to fully pay one of the contractors in its San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) Project. Based on our records, out of the P1.2 billion worth of contracts related to the SLLP Project, only P135 million worth of contracts in addition to some additional works were awarded to Piedras Negras Construction and Development Corp. (PNCDC). To date, MJC has paid PNCDC P123,940,088.08 already.

"A performance evaluation was conducted by the Construction Manager of the SLLP Project, Jose Aliling and Associates, and found that PNCDC performed poorly in executing its contracts.

"There were manifest defects on the work done by PNCDC (e.g., entire sections of the retaining wall they built collapsed.). Further, there were considerable delays incurred by PNCDC in the completion of the works.

"In view of this, MJC and PNCDC entered into an agreement whereby MJC extended financial assistance to the latter to enable it to finish the contracted works prior to the start of operations at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

"It was also agreed that in lieu of the monthly progress billings, PNCDC and MJC would just do an accounting of the amount paid and received upon the completion of the works to determine the final amount one party owes to the other.

"After deducting the liquidated damages due to MJC and payment for the defective works, it turned out that the net amount of the liquidated damages was larger than the receivables of PNCDC. Thus, it is PNCDC that still owes MJC. This belies the claim of PNCDC for additional payments.

Arbitration

"2. PNCDC did not follow the mode of settling disputes as provided for in our contract.

"The three contracts entered into by MJC and PNCDC essentially contain the same terms and conditions. One of the provisions in the arbitration clause states that any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the contracts and other related documents shall be submitted for arbitration by either party.

"This, PNCDC failed to observe. It should have brought whatever grievances it may have to the Construction Industry Arbitration Board as the proper forum and not resort to collection publicity, as what it did in this case.

"2. It is not true that MJC will be conducting an IPO.

MJC is a company that has been listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange for decades now. Thus, it is erroneous to say that there would be a forthcoming IPO for MJC.

"4. MJC is financially stable.

"The latest audited financial statement of MJC would show that it is not suffering from financial difficulty. At the end of 2003, MJC registered a positive figure in terms of cash standing which is much higher than the figure in 2002."

Accuracy

One final note. The Inquirer follows a "hands-off" policy on its 72 or so columnists. Except in relation to grammar, style and libelous statements, the columnists are free to state their views or comments on the things they write about in their columns.

However, when a columnist writes an exposé or an item that bears the elements of a news report, he shall be held to the same rules on accuracy, fairness and objectivity that apply to reporters and editors.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Don't keep health budget small

IT is refreshing to know that there are still government officials like Governors Joseph Marañon and George Arnaiz (Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, respectively) who are truly concerned about the plight of their public nurses and doctors. (PDI 8/20/04) Their distress over the continued diaspora of Philippine nurses and doctors reflects how they view health as a fundamental need and a basic human right of every Filipino, especially the poor.

As such, it is not enough that they increase the salaries and benefits of our health workers; it is also important that they allot a larger portion of their annual budget to basic social services, including health. They should strive to make public health services, medicines and laboratory exams affordable, if not free, to their people, especially the impoverished majority.

Some say that this is not possible due to budgetary constraints, but we say it is. If the Arroyo administration would only allocate a larger portion of its budget for 2005, instead of the measly P12.9 billion it allotted this year, to health, then our people would be in a much happier and healthier state than now. We believe that this is very doable and the government can't make any excuses (e.g., growing budget deficit or other "important budgetary priorities") for not doing so.

If it could allocate P78.8 billion for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, and P271.5 billion for debt interest servicing, then it certainly should have an equally significant amount for medicines and health services. If it can allocate P538.75 million to the Philippine Military Academy, then it certainly must have more for our national hospitals, instead of the P155 million it gave to the Philippine Heart Center, the P185 million for the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, and the P185.5 million for the Lung Center—a total of only P525.5 million!

It is thus a welcome relief to have more leaders—like Governors Marañon and Arnaiz join the ranks of health workers, peoples' organizations and lawmakers, like Satur Ocampo, (Bayan Muna party list)—who understand the real-life concerns of their constituents, and who are brave enough to stand up and fight for their right to affordable, appropriate and accessible health care services.

—DARBY E. SANTIAGO, M.D.,
secretary general,
Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), Rm. 2-D La Paloma Bldg.,
233 Mayon cor. N. Roxas Sts.,
Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Praises

THE SADDEST part of your editorial on Aug. 17 was not the loss of Jose Apostol, but that you praised him after he died. So he never knew how you cared.

Why do we withhold praises until the person we should shower them with is no longer in a position to hear?

Let's praise people who've done a good job while they're alive. It just might encourage others to do better. But, most importantly, it will recognize those who deserve to be appreciated—to their face.

—PETER WALLACE,
president,
Wallace Business Forum,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

MR. Jose Z. Apostol knew in many little ways of our admiration and affection. But the public didn't. We needed to share his goodness. Being a very private person, he wouldn't have liked the editorial, and like you, might have felt sad that he had to be praised in the hereafter.—Ed.

Jamby assures public in fight for environment

I WAS deeply touched by the letter, "A challenge to Senator Jamby," which was published in the INQUIRER's Aug. 9, 2004 issue. This only goes to show that more and more of us believe in fighting for the environment.

I am saddened though that the letter-writer's home province, Cagayan, was recently battered by Typhoon Igme and endured floods for weeks. In times like this, it is really the poorest among us who suffer the most. This is one of the reasons why I took up the advocacy of protecting the environment. The denudation of our forests and the indiscriminate cutting of mature trees by unscrupulous entities are the very reasons why people suffer from flash floods, landslides and overflowing rivers.

That is why saving one tree, and then another, and eventually whole forests, will in the end galvanize movements against those who have no concern whatsoever for our environment. I believe that it is our moral, ethical and spiritual duty to be kind to nature. When we are kind to nature, nature will be tenfold kinder to us.

I appreciate Percival Barba's concern for the environment, and I am glad he brought the plight of his town mates to the attention of the public. If we only knew how often this situation occurs throughout the country, then we would realize how steep the price we are paying by simply not doing anything to prevent it.

My commitment to protect the environment is real. It is not merely a tool for political purposes. When we treasure our environment and natural resources, all of us benefit; whether young or old, rich or poor. Rest assured that my legislative agenda includes measures that aim to conserve and protect our environment both on small and large scale bases.

I call on everyone to join me in this crusade against those who have no respect for the nature that gives us life. And I hope that with our concerted efforts, these disasters brought about by man's abuse of our environment will be prevented. Please call on me anytime.

—SEN. MA. ANA CONSUELO "JAMBY" MADRIGAL,
Senate of the Philippines,
GSIS Headquarters Bldg.,
Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

ECOP main organizer of jobs fair

IN ITS Aug. 25 issue, the INQUIRER featured a photo of the big crowd of jobseekers who trooped to a jobs fair at the Philippine Trade and Training Center. The photo's caption stated that the jobs fair was organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

A day after, the INQUIRER's Aug. 26 issue published a correction stating that the affair was organized by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) "and not the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)."

In order to set the record straight, both the ECOP and PMAP wish to clarify that the entire summit was spearheaded and led by the ECOP. The PMAP was a collaborating organization in that event, specifically tasked to conduct and organize the jobs fair, along with other partners, such as the Couples for Christ and the Pasay City Public Employment Services Office. In addition to the jobs fair, there was also a trade fair participated in by some 30 companies, and the Summit Program proper.

We hope this clarifies in no uncertain terms that the ECOP was the main organizer of the entire summit, while the PMAP was a collaborating organization in a specific segment—the jobs fair—of the conference.

—RENE Y. SORIANO,
president, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines; OSCAR L. CONTRERAS JR.,
president, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines

Tiglao clarifies 'spies' story

ARMAND Nocum's article "Spies to check on spies…") last Aug. 22 had two factual, libelous errors.

The head of the Transparency Group, Assistant Secretary Nicasio A. Conti, has never, as the article reported, "come under fire for allegedly accepting millions of pesos from top customs officials." There was never such an allegation, formal or informal, period. Not even rumors of such, nor anonymous complaints.

Nocum then quoted Conti as having denied this, that "he had already filed charges against the official who accused him of extortion."

The fact is, Nocum never interviewed Conti for the article. There was never an allegation, therefore Conti cannot file charges against any accuser.

Fabricating a quote from somebody who was not interviewed, I would think, is one of the gravest violations of journalistic standards. Making up an allegation and then—to disguise it as a balanced article—quoting the slandered as denying the allegation even if he had not been interviewed is one of the cheapest tricks in yellow journalism. This is that classic cheap shot: "Mr. X cheats on his wife, but he denies it."

Let me also clarify that the Transparency Group had been set up and its lifestyle probes undertaken way back early 2003.

Since late 2003—and not after the elections, as Nocum reported—the Transparency Group indeed "slowed down its operations." This was because of our move to transfer such investigations to the newly created anti-graft units in several departments. The Ombudsman has also started its own lifestyle checks, empowered by major fund infusions from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Transparency Group's lifestyle investigations were initiated on orders of President Arroyo to jump-start her intensified anti-graft campaign, as a parallel operation to the campaign of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. It was also intended to find out in real life the real problems of an anti-graft campaign in order to gather empirical basis for anti-graft policies, which my office was tasked to formulate.

No official or operative of the Transparency Group has been accused of corruption or extorting money in exchange for stopping its lifestyle check operations.

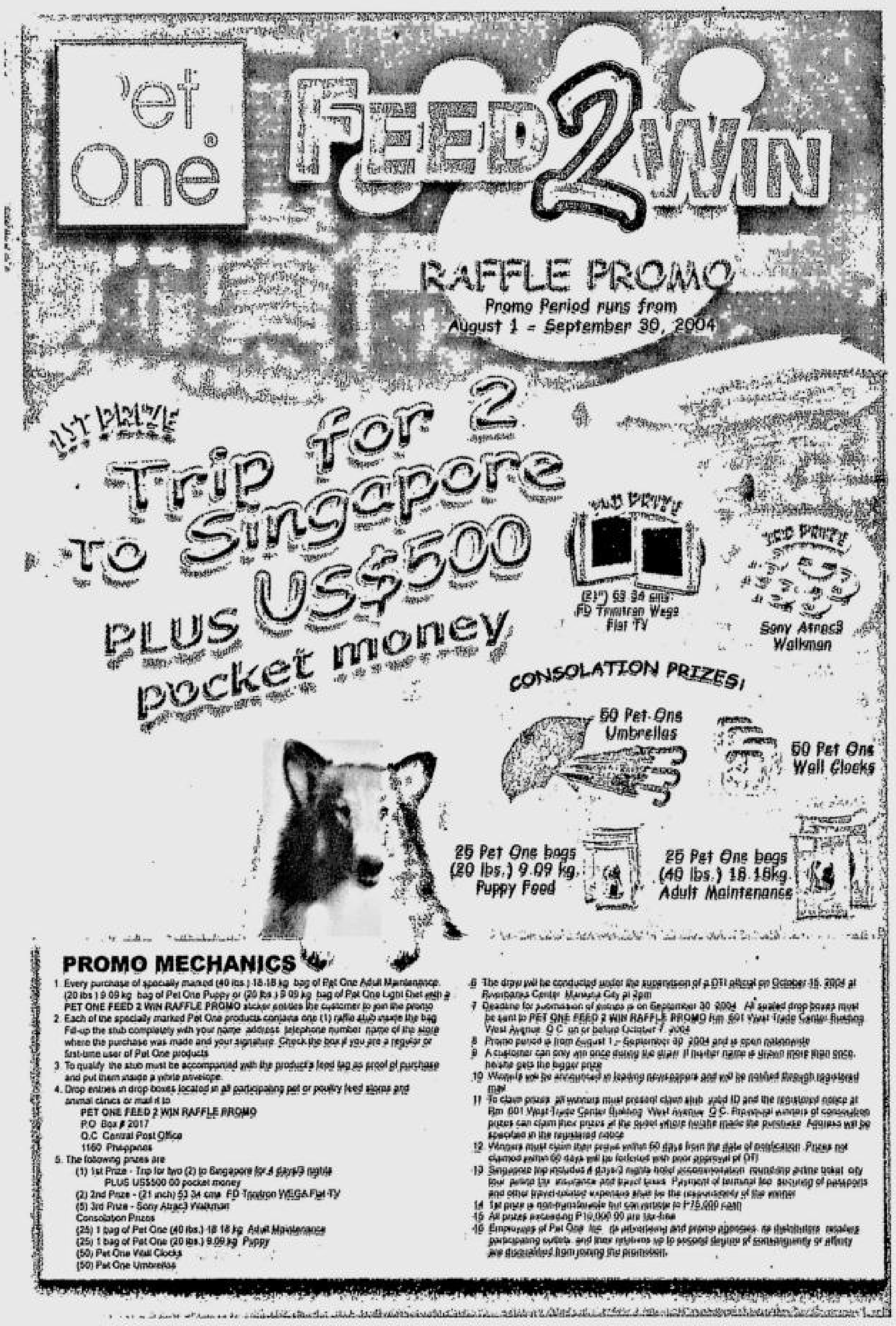
In 2003, there were reports of two con men pretending to be with the Transparency Group. These jerks were appropriately neutralized immediately.

What has been happening though is that those who have failed the lifestyle check, and the corrupt who fear these investigations, have been undertaking a media campaign to discredit the Transparency Group. When it hurts them, they strike back. Nocum obviously has been gullible in believing such black propaganda.

—RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO,
presidential chief of staff,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

I INTERVIEWED Nicasio Conti regarding my story. His staff member Nick Ferrer as well as my post-paid mobile phone bill can attest to calls between Conti and me before the publication of my story. INQUIRER clippings will show I have been fair—if not wholly supportive—of the Transparency Group and the lifestyle check program since it was started last year. I invite Mr. Tiglao to look at the INQUIRER news clippings first before complaining.

—ARMAND NOCUM,
Inquirer reporter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4. Drop entries in drop boxes located in all participating pet or poultry feed stores and animal clinics or mail it to:
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5. The following prizes are:
   (1) 1st Prize - Trip for two (2) to Singapore for 4 days/3 nights PLUS US$500.00 pocket money
   (2) 2nd Prize - (21 inch) 53.34 cms. FD Trinitron WEGA Flat TV
   (5) 3rd Prize - Sony Atrac3 Walkman
   Consolation Prizes
   (25) 1 bag of Pet One (40 lbs.) 18.18 kg. Adult Maintenance
   (25) 1 bag of Pet One (20 lbs.) 9.09 kg. Puppy
   (50) Pet One Wall Clocks
   (50) Pet One Umbrellas
6. The draw will be conducted under the supervision of a DTI official on October 15, 2004 at Riverbanks Center, Marikina City at 2pm.
7. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 30, 2004. All sealed drop boxes must be sent to PET ONE FEED 2 WIN RAFFLE PROMO Rm. 601 West Trade Center Building, West Avenue, Q.C. on or before October 7, 2004.
8. Promo period is from August 1 – September 30, 2004 and is open nationwide.
9. A customer can only win once during the draw. If his/her name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.
10. Winners will be announced in leading newspapers and will be notified through registered mail.
11. To claim prizes, all winners must present claim stub, valid ID and the registered notice at Rm. 601 West Trade Center Building, West Avenue, Q.C. Provincial winners of consolation prizes can claim their prizes at the outlet where he/she made the purchase. Address will be specified in the registered notice.
12. Winners must claim their prizes within 60 days from the date of notification. Prizes not claimed within 60 days will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
13. Singapore trip includes 4 days/3 nights hotel accommodation, round-trip airline ticket, city tour, [illegible] insurance and travel taxes. Payment of terminal fee, securing of passports and other travel-related expenses shall be the responsibility of the winner.
14. 1st prize is non-transferable but convertible to P75,000 cash.
15. All prizes exceeding P10,000.00 are tax-free.
16. Employees of Pet One, Inc., its advertising and promo agencies, its distributors, retailers, participating outlets, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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Ex-cop nabbed for slay of rights leader

DAVAO CITY—Police authorities here on Saturday said they arrested a former police officer, who resembled the gunman in the murder of human rights leader Rashid Manahan.

Chief Insp. Matthew Baccay, San Pedro police station commander, said Dennis Fernando was arrested with another companion during a drug bust here on Friday.

Fernando, 37, also yielded a revolver during the raid, he said.

Baccay said they would present the former police officer before witnesses in the Manahan murder.

Fernando denied involvement in the murder, saying he did not know the victim and that he never heard of his death.

Manahan was on his way to a forum on the series of summary executions here on Tuesday when unidentified gunmen pumped at least four bullets into his body.

He died while being rushed to the hospital by one of the forum speakers, Dr. Nymia Simbulan of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights).

Manahan was to drive Simbulan to the venue when he was shot.

Baccay said the firearm recovered from Fernando would be tested to determine if it was the same weapon used in killing Manahan.

He said policemen were optimistic that the identities of those behind the Manahan murder could already be established.

Earlier, city police chief Supt. Conrado Laza said they were looking at four angles in the killing of Manahan, including a love triangle.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was cautious even with the police claim that Fernando resembled the suspect, whose description witnesses provided police artists.

He said it would be important for the police to thoroughly check the suspect's background.

The connection of Fernando to the Manahan killing could only be determined if facts are established, he said.

"I want to check. We will know that if the slugs found in the victim's body would match this," Duterte told reporters as he showed them one of the bullets recovered from the gun seized from Fernando.

Rev. Jonathan Ulanday of the United Methodist Church, welcomed the arrest of the suspect.

But Ulanday, Manahan's colleague in the antisummary execution movement, said he was hoping that the police revelation about the suspect's resemblance to the gunman was not made "for the sake of beating the deadline."

Duterte had earlier given the police seven days from Wednesday to solve the case .

"Whether he is the real one or not, he should be granted the basic human rights guaranteed [for] any suspect," Ulanday told the INQUIRER. *Anthony S. Allada with a report from Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

S. Tagalog 'most dangerous area' for leftists—Gabriela

LUCENA CITY—An official of Gabriela yesterday said that with the killing of the militant party-list group's coordinator in the City of Sta. Rosa in Laguna on Friday, Southern Tagalog has become the most dangerous area for leftist activists, even for women.

"It is a virtual killing field for human rights workers and too many have been slain. We simply cannot let human rights violators go unpunished, because by doing so they are virtually being rewarded," said Rep. Liza Maza, a native of San Pablo City, also in Laguna, in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

Maza cited Eden Marcellana, Milagros Belga and Juvy Magsino as among the many women activists and human rights leaders who had been killed in Southern Tagalog.

Human rights organizations in the region revealed that there were over 80 murder victims in Southern Tagalog during the Arroyo administration.

On Friday, Melita "*Ate* Mely" Trinidad Carvajal, 50, Gabriela coordinator in Sta. Rosa, was shot by two unidentified men on a motorcycle right outside her home.

Maza revealed that Carvajal was the second Gabriela coordinator killed in eight months. Party members in Batangas had also experienced harassment from members of the military, forcing them to withdraw membership from the women's group, she said.

Maza called on local officials to help ensure a speedy and impartial investigation of the death of Carvajal.

"We condemn the brutal slaying of *Ate* Mely and we demand that justice be given to her and her family," she said.

Maza stressed the importance of expediting justice for Carvajal. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Police say new law eased incest prosecution

BAGUIO CITY—The new law on violence against women and children (VAWC) has eased the prosecution of incest and domestic rape cases in communities where tribal cultures routinely hide such crimes, the Cordillera police reported to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Republic Act No. 9262 allows social workers and policemen to file suits on behalf of victims who are discouraged by village leaders or her family from complaining, said Senior Supt. William Aspilan, spokesperson of the Cordillera police at Camp Bado Dangwa.

The law has been hailed for legalizing the medical condition called battered women syndrome, a psychological trauma which the law says is a legitimate defense in heinous crimes, such as murder.

Aspilan told Dulfie Tobias-Shalim, DSWD Cordillera director, that the police had difficulty compiling prima facie evidence against rape suspects because of pressure from families.

Shalim sponsored an Aug. 18 conference on the new law and a Cebu City-initiated counseling program that focuses on VAWC perpetrators. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Zambo Sur governor evicts GMA aide, 116 families

PAGADIAN CITY—Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles has ordered the eviction of Deputy Secretary for Mindanao Affairs Romeo Veracruz and at least 116 families from a property owned by the provincial government.

Veracruz, a former governor, and the affected families had asked a court to issue a temporary restraining order, but it was denied.

"We've been asking for reconsideration, we are disappointed not only with the provincial government's response, but with the decision of the local court as well," Veracruz told the INQUIRER.

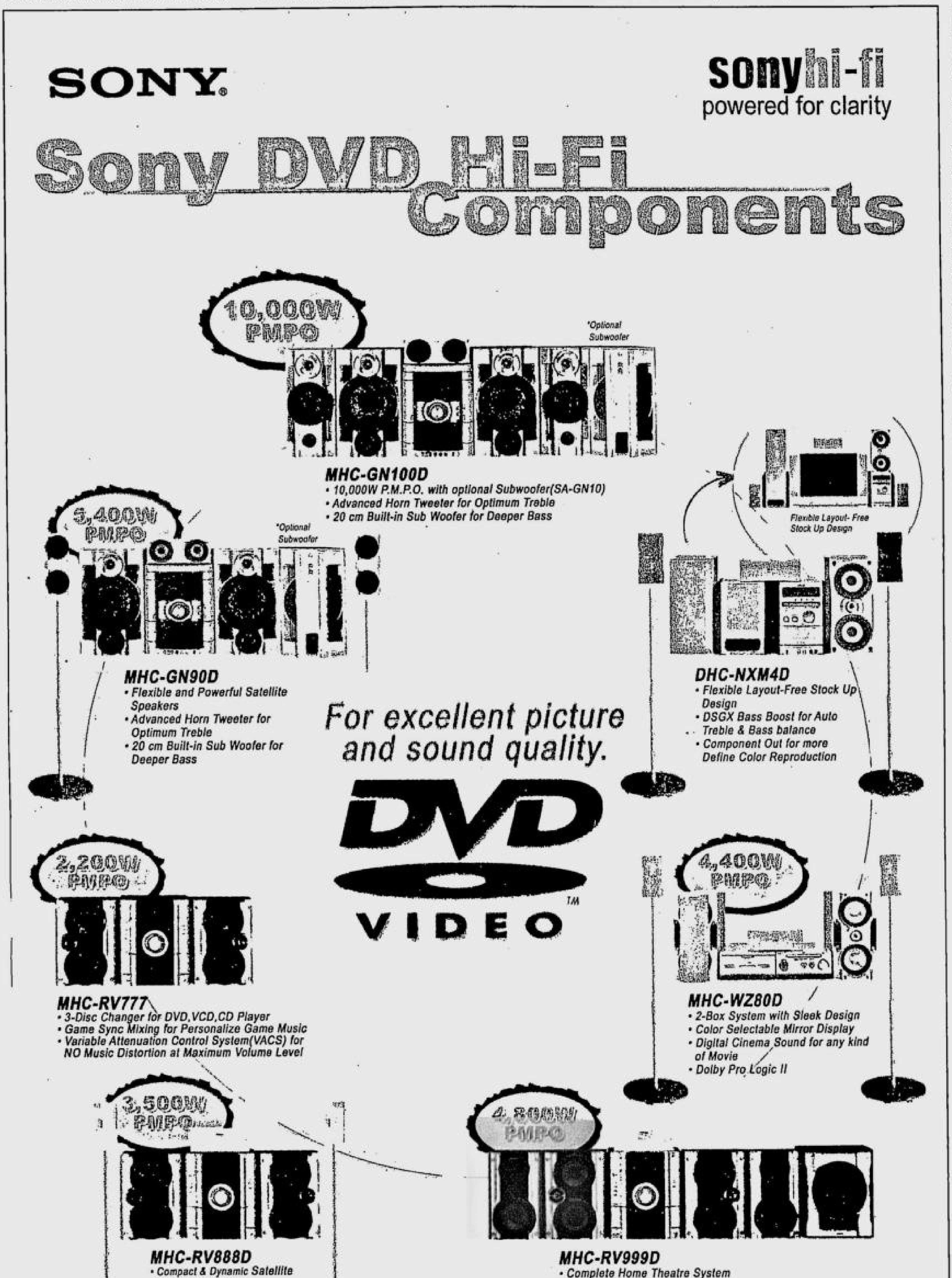
The affected families have been holding vigil inside the San Jose Chapel, on the property in Barangay Dao known as Padap.

The property got its name from the Philippine Australian Development Assistance Program because it was used as a base by Australian contractors who built the provincial road network.

When the Australians left in the early 1980s, they turned over the 64-hectare property to the provincial government on condition that the Padap employees be allowed to continue occupying the houses, free of charge.

From 1992 to 1998, an agreement between the provincial government and the occupants had been enforced, allowing their stay if they paid rent.

Provincial Administrator Edward Larubis said the Cerilles administration planned to use other areas for the construction of the provincial jail and a rehabilitation center for abused children and women. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Mediation solves 304 cases in Bacolod City

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—About 304 cases have been successfully resolved through mediation here in the month leading up to the launching Friday of the pilot Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model courts in the city by Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

The ADR model courts form part of the Judicial Dispute Resolution (JDR) project. It is expected to resolve through mediation 900 cases out of the city courts' total load of 8,200 cases.

The project began last month in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, where 23 cases were resolved in the first nine days.

Davide said that with mediation, many cases would no longer have to reach the courts. Those that reach the courts can be disposed of early by a mediator, he added.

Aside from saving on legal fees, this will also mean an immediate restoration of cordial and harmonious relations between the parties because they will voluntarily enter into an amicable settlement and put an end to litigation, Davide said.

Harmony

"When we speak about mediation, we really speak about harmony, we speak about mutual love and friendship... It is not, therefore, just [the removal of] some cases from the court. To me, it means the restoration of peace and harmony in the country," Davide said in a speech during the launch.

Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, who joined Davide at the launching, said the JDR project, funded by the Canadian government, aims to decongest the courts that have been saddled by heavy backlog of cases because there are not enough judges.

The project is funded through Canada's Judicial Reform Initiatives Support Project, a program amounting to Can$6.4 million in support of the implementation of the Supreme Court's Action Program for Judicial Reform.

Under the JDR project, the judge becomes a conciliator, neutral evaluator and mediator.

In court-annexed mediation, an accredited mediator helps parties identify issues and develop proposals to resolve their disputes. When the case could not reach settlement at this level, it is brought back to the court for the JDR process. The pre-trial judge sits down with both parties and their counsel to help settle the dispute, acting as conciliator or mediator as the situation warrants. The case then hopefully concludes with a judgment based on the agreement reached, Davide said.

Judges, lawyers and mediators were trained in extensive mediation seminar-workshops in preparation for the new proceedings. Bacolod now has 63 mediators.

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Witnesses in radioman's killing fear for lives

DAVAO CITY—Witnesses in the killing of Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio now fear for their lives after they were removed from the government's witness protection program.

Western Mindanao prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron yesterday confirmed the removal of the witnesses from government protection and the "archiving" of the Damalerio case.

Cabaron said the Department of Justice, through a directive sent to them last week, decided to shelve the Damalerio case because it had not progressed in the last six months. "It's inactive," he said.

But Gemma Damalerio, the victim's widow, said they were informed of the government's decision to remove them from the witness protection program as early as December last year.

The woman, who was tapped as one of the witnesses, said Cabaron informed her about the decision only by phone.

She said with her removal from the program, she also lost the monthly stipend of P5,000, which she used to pay for her security escorts.

Edgar Amoro, another witness, said he had been on alert after armed men tried but failed to kill him in June.

Gemma said a man riding on a motorcycle was seen near her house on Thursday and Friday. Like Amoro, she said she was taking extra precautions.

Primary witness Edgar Ongue has been in hiding.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said it was holding Malacañang, the Department of Justice and the police responsible if something happened to the witnesses.

Damalerio, a hard-hitting radio commentator, was on his way home from a press conference on May 13, 2002 when he was attacked near the city police station.

Witnesses tagged former police officer Guillermo Wapile as the gunman. Wapile was taken into police custody but disappeared in February 2003, two days before a judge issued a warrant for his arrest.

Former Zamboanga del Sur police director, Senior Supt. Pedrito Reyes, who took Wapile in custody, was charged before the military Ombudsman, but the case was later dismissed for lack of merit. Reyes had since retired.

In Dumaguete City, a reporter and announcer of dyWC who received a death threat on Aug. 24, said she had established the identity of the suspect after piecing together clues.

"Now, I'm emboldened. I want to put him behind bars," Maritoni Salvoro, 28, said.

The Salvoro family had just finished dinner at about 8 p.m. in their home at Barangay Sacsac, Bacong town, when a man riding on a white motorcycle, drove up to their front yard and fired an M-16 rifle three times. No one was hit, Salvoro said.

Responding policemen found an envelope containing the letter in two typewritten pages, and a .45 cal. bullet.

The note read: "Maritoni Salvoro, you made a news that [disrupted the plans of our group. Say goodbye to your loved ones.] Upon reading this letter, consider yourself dead!" *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

GMA cameraman dies

DAVAO CITY—A cameraman of GMA-Davao died after the motorcycle he was riding on was smashed by a 10-wheel truck in Barangay Lasang here at around 5 a.m. Sunday. Jay Glodo, 27, of Barangay Lano in nearby Panabo City, died on the spot, according to Richy Nalagon, a GMA-Davao reporter. On Sept. 28, 2001, Glodo and reporter Rudy Encabo were on board a GMA service vehicle when it collided with a car. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Grenade at telecom office

COTABATO CITY—Another grenade was recovered at the office of telecommunications giant Smart Philippines here, a day after an explosive was found near its main door. Police said the second explosive was wrapped with a plastic tape. Sr. Insp. Abdulwahid Pedtucasan, chief of police Station 1, said both grenades did not explode. "How the suspects managed to bring another explosive in the building when it should have already been secured due to the previous incident is worth contemplating," Pedtucasan said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Military-style' robbery

BUTUAN CITY—Former militiamen are using their extensive military training to rob passengers of buses plying the Agusan-Surigao route, Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police chief, said. The group, led by Jimmy Brillantes, had been striking almost every week. "[They] have extensive trainings in military combat and intelligence," Olario told reporters when asked why the police appeared to be helpless in stopping the group. He cited as examples the group's swift attacks and swift withdrawals. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 Pentagon men slain

KORONADAL CITY—Two suspected henchmen of Pentagon gang leader Tahir Alonto were killed during a clash with the military in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao, on Friday, the military said Sunday. Reports from the Army's 6th Infantry Division said two militiamen were also killed in the clash that occurred in Barangay Bakat around 8 a.m. The report said Army troops were patrolling the area when they spotted at least 15 Pentagon gunmen. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

German killed

DAVAO CITY—A German was shot dead, vigilante-style, in Digos City on Friday night, police reported. Reiner Franke, 48, who hailed from Hamburg, was coming out of a karaoke bar on Rizal Avenue when two motorcycle-riding men arrived at 8:45 p.m. One of the suspects got off the motorcycle and shot Franke three times. Franke and his Filipino wife had been staying in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, since 1999, where he owned a beach resort. *Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tamaraw conservation

CITY OF CALAPAN—The provincial government will provide one hectare of the Provincial Demonstration Farm in Merit, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, for the construction of a biodiversity center for tamaraw conservation. A memorandum of agreement on tamaraw conservation was signed between the provincial government and The Association of Mindoreños Inc. (Tam) recently in Manila. Tam is a civic organization whose members mostly reside outside the province. It will provide financial and technical assistance for the center. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Land distribution

CITY OF CALAPAN—Some 27,937 hectares of land have been distributed by the Department of Agrarian Reform, according to a report from the DAR provincial office here. This is 80 percent of the agency's target, which is 39,000 hectares. Many of those distributed went to Mansalay town, 3,246 ha; Bansud, 3,057 ha; Victoria, 2,986 ha; Bulalacao, 2,901 ha; and Bongabong, 2,711 ha. Alexander Juane, provincial agrarian reform officer in charge, said DAR hoped to distribute the remaining 7,722 ha before the end of 2007. He added that some 3,515 farmers have been benefited by the leasehold program of DAR.
Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

1,200 policemen involved in illegal drugs—Aglipay

SAN PABLO CITY—Over 1,200 police personnel are involved in illegal drug trade.

Police Director General Edgar Aglipay made this revelation during the First Consultative Meeting on Community Safety and Security at the Coco Palace Hotel here on Wednesday.

Aglipay said the number included police personnel, who were either drug users, pushers or protectors of drug syndicates.

He said the intensified campaign against illegal drugs had already netted 309 "of these bad eggs in the police organization" in raids and entrapment operations.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo has reminded us of cleaning our ranks first before getting rid of the problem outside. We are doing just that," Aglipay said.

He said they would continue to conduct random drug tests on PNP personnel.

Among those arrested were members of the antidrug police units who tried to extort money from suspected drug traders.

These included a certain PO3 Galorio who worked under Aglipay's nose as member of the Anti-Illegal Drug Special Operations Task Force, a special agency that he headed.

He said Galorio asked for P70,000 from a drug pusher detained at their office in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

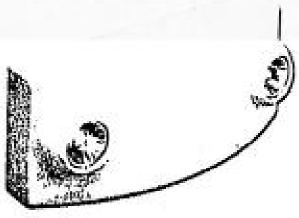
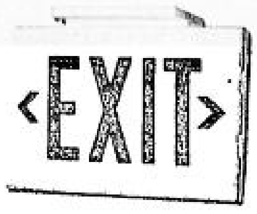
Also arrested were six members of the controversial Task Force Hunter of Senior Insp. Reynaldo Jaylo, who reportedly had problems working with other enforcement units of the PNP.

Aglipay said a certain Senior Insp. Obordo was the highest ranking PNP member jailed for an extortion attempt.

He said the suspect had demanded P1.7 million from a drug dealer who was arrested in Pandacan, Manila, last year.

"By arresting our own members, we would like to ensure the public that we have nothing to hide and that we never tolerate or coddle those who violate the law," he said.

The PNP chief then asked the businessmen, members of the Catholic Church and other community leaders to be "our eyes and ears." *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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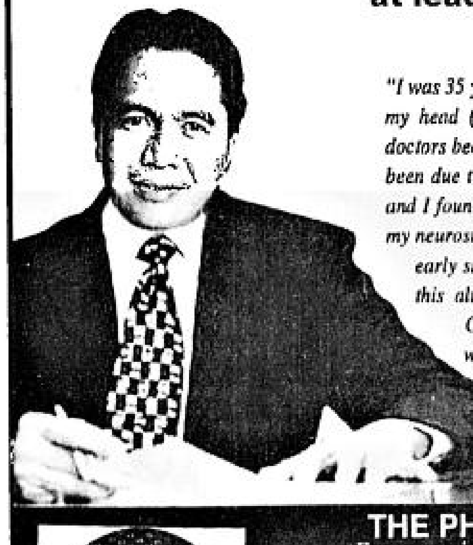
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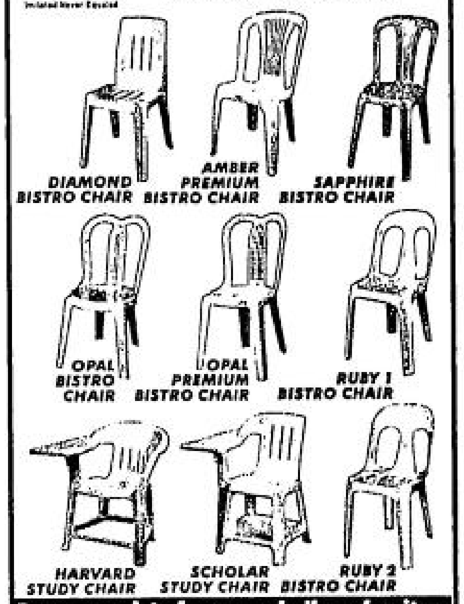

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Deaf also mark Nat'l Language Month

From page A1

A more telling experience was shared by an alumnus, Karl Limson, 22. He recounted that, travelling unaccompanied one day when he was still in high school, he was arrested for jaywalking at the Edsa-Shaw crossing because the sign "Bawal Tumawid Dito" meant nothing to him.

The traffic officer realized soon enough that he was dealing with a deaf person. So he slapped no fines on Karl, but merely scribbled something on a piece of paper and gave it to the boy by way of pardoning him.

"Problem was, he also wrote it in Filipino!" a smiling Karl said in sign language.

Gertie Fermin, the teacher facilitating the interview, recounted a disturbing incident. "Years ago, I heard about a Grade 6 pupil who entered somebody else's yard without understanding the sign on the gate."

The sign was "Mag-ingat sa Aso (Beware of Dog)," she said. "Naturally, the dog chased her."

Help on the way

According to Fermin, educators for the deaf have already devised Filipino Sign Language or FSL, which she hoped would help.

She said FSL would help in making basic Filipino terms readily comprehensible, including words for ugly or beautiful, expensive or cheap, many or none, empty or full. Also, the equivalents of such common phrases, such as "Good morning" and "Thank you."

But, Fermin lamented, try to convey Filipino synonyms for "love," such as "*pag-ibig*" and especially the more poetic "*pag-irog*" or "*pagsinta*," and the students would surely have a hard time.

Only recently, she said, she also found that some of the children didn't know the meaning of "*pinggan*(plate)" and "*baso* (drinking glass)."

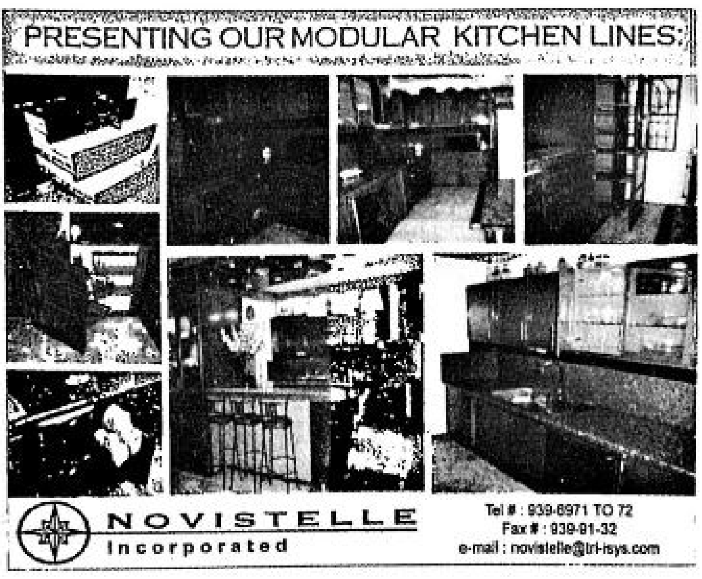
Sure, they can read even multisyllabic Filipino words, but only "phonetically and with poor comprehension," said Fermin's fellow teacher, Jojie Alcantara.

The two warned that this could pose "some difficulties," as the students' experiences had illustrated.

And so today, according to Fermin, Said students will mark "Buwan ng Wika" and show their appreciation of the national language through some sort of a talent show.

They will act out comic strips that they themselves drew and wrote in a presentation dubbed "*Karikatura*." The performers will depict campus life—secret crushes, classroom pranks, teenage problems—and deliver the all-Filipino dialogue in sign language.

That's definitely more than paying lip service to the nationwide exaltation of the native tongue.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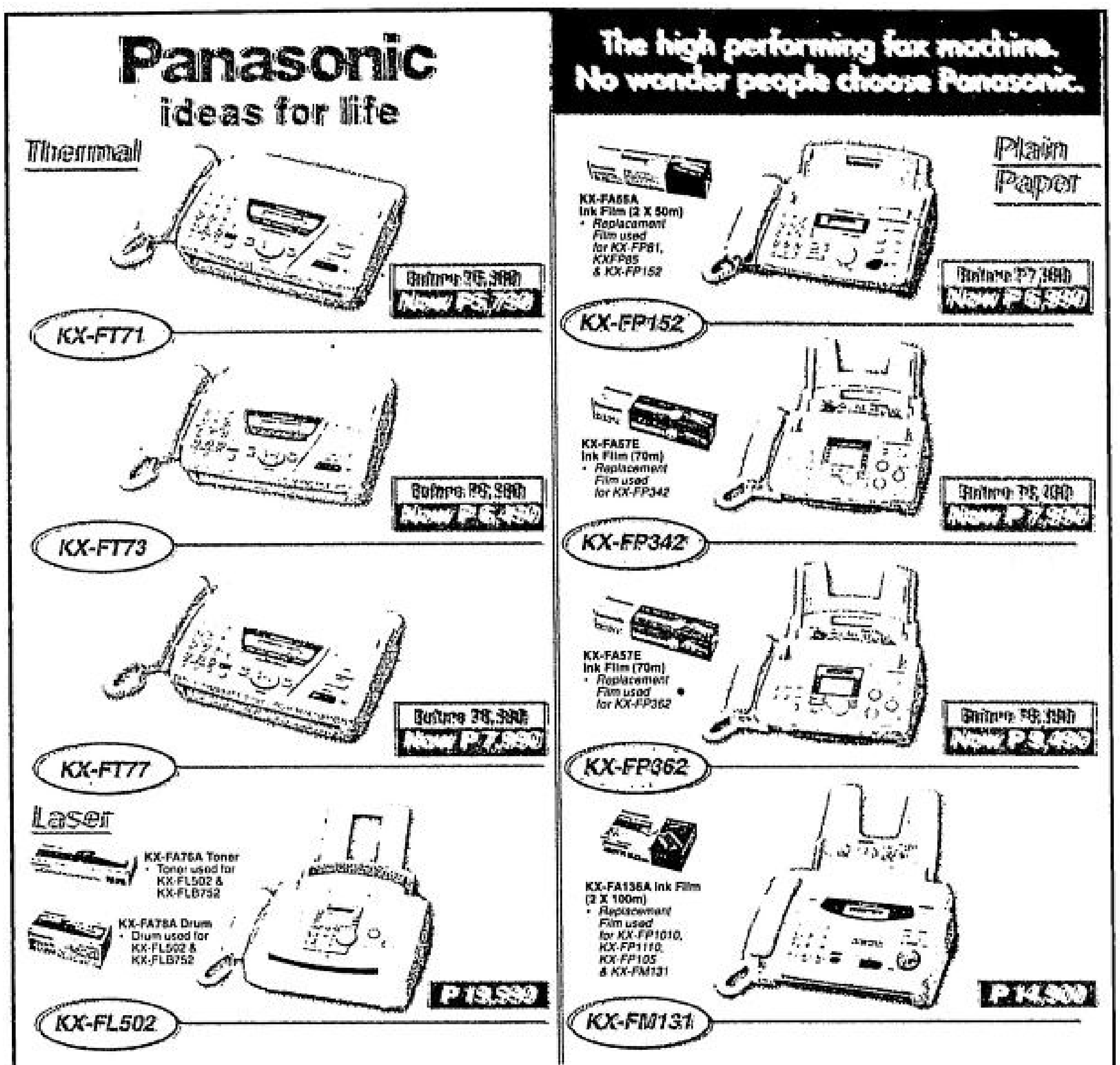
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POLICE Director General Edgar Aglipay trims the hair of a Manila policeman during formation at the Quirino Grandstand. JESS YUSON

Manila policemen taught lessons in good grooming

From page A1

Reliving his days as a soldier, Interior Secretary and former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes ordered the jittery policemen to "stand at attention" during the inspection.

Senior superintendents down to police officers 1 (patrolmen) came under the full scrutiny of Reyes, Aglipay and Velasco.

Returning glory days

"It is said that wherever Manila goes, the entire Philippines follows. By extension, it could be said that where the WPD goes, the PNP follows," said Director Avelino Razon Jr., National Capital Region Police Office chief, addressing the men and women in formation.

"It [the WPD] has witnessed its glory reach the zenith but somehow [this] faded through the years. Today, we commit to you that we shall regain the old glory of our police forces," said Razon, once a director of the 103-year-old WPD.

He told the INQUIRER: "We have to do this to win back the respect of the people. We all have to look clean and presentable all the time."

Part of the campaign is to require all officers to wear the "general office attire," the official uniform worn previously only by junior officers. The attire includes the PNP blue shirts, matching navy blue pants, black socks and shoes, and overseas cap.

Manila's Finest

Aglipay began the inspection at the WPD, once dubbed Manila's Finest and considered the most important of the five police districts in Metro Manila. It has jurisdiction over security around Malacañang.

Next Sunday, Aglipay and other top PNP officials will conduct a rank inspection at the Central Police District, the police office in charge of Quezon City. Other police districts will follow on succeeding Sundays. There will be similar inspections in the provinces.

Among the highlights of every inspection is the awarding of "lanyards" to outstanding policemen, especially those able to arrest street criminals.

Razon said even senior NCRPO officials—himself included—would have to compete for the lanyard, a blue and gold rope tied around an officer's uniform sleeves.

"That means I myself would have to catch a snatcher," he said.

Calling the WPD the country's best police force, Razon dared its men and women to be models for the rest of Metro Manila's police forces.

24-hour police visibility

Razon has launched a 100-day program of action for the entire NCRPO calling for stricter discipline and improvement in the skills of police officers.

Foremost in his checklist is a crackdown on "*kotong* cops" or police officers involved in extortion.

"We have internal intelligence for that. We will monitor our own men reported to be involved in *kotong*," said WPD spokesperson Gerry Agunod.

Wider, round-the-clock police visibility is also called for.

Apart from the patrolmen, Agunod said, ranking officials at headquarters and police stations will be required to pound the beat.

"There will be more policemen on the streets during rush hours, and they will be posted in more public areas, including markets and churches, and in establishments like banks and hotels," Agunod said.

And while they are on duty, the police officers will be required to sport their "*gupit-binata*" haircuts and don their official uniforms.

Agunod is confident that the WPD's makeover into a model police force can be done. "We have to. Those who will not comply may look for another job convenient to them," he said.

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ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFIT	P 200,000	P 500,000	P1,000,000	P2,000,000
AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS				
AGE	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
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44-47	387.80	969.50	1,939.00	3,878.00
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Bishop tells solons: Abstain from pork

From page A1

"*Magbawas din sila ng kalokohan* (They should also minimize their mischief). *Magbawas ng konting* (curb) corruption. *Dapat nga wala, eh* (There should be none in the first place)," Rosales said.

"Let us all work together to help the country rise. A little fasting on corruption."

Rosales, a vocal critic of politicians in the country, said he believed in the sincerity of those who propose to cut down or altogether give up their pork barrel.

"We are not condemning anyone. My prayer is that this suggestion will prosper. I think this is our last chance to recover," he said.

Nine of the President's allies in the Senate have signed a resolution agreeing to slash their pork barrel. Senators Franklin Drilon, Manuel Lapid, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Francis Pangilinan have agreed to give theirs up entirely.

But members of the opposition said they would give up their pork barrel only if all legislators, including those in the House of Representatives, gave up their share as well.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said Friday that 200 of the 236 House members were amenable to cuts in their pork barrel.

Congressional insertions

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LP, Palawan) said slashing the pork barrel of senators would not affect them because they "can still recover [them] through creative amendments or what are called congressional insertions."

"Nothing will prevent a senator from amending, say a provision proposing funds for an irrigation project and have it rewritten to have the funds go to solar dryers," Mitra said in a statement.

Senators have long engaged in the practice of insertions and the temptation to engage in more of the same increases because of moves to slash the pork barrel, according to Mitra.

"An embedded pork will be hard to detect. The budget becomes a box of chocolates—we will never know what senators would get," he said.

To ensure that the proposed national budget for 2005 does not contain "hidden" pork, an opposition senator is pushing for "liposuction."

Line budgeting

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged Congress to revert to "line item budgeting" or itemization of expenses in the national budget to guard against "hidden" pork barrel.

Pimentel said line item budgeting should replace the present lump sum budgeting.

"To remove hidden pork from the General Appropriations Act, we suggest line budgeting like what was done before martial law," he said.

"The nation needs a liposuction, not mere chopping to ensure a healthy body politic," he said.

In a phone interview and in a statement he later issued, Pimentel said reverting to the old practice would "curb the unscrupulous practice of jacking up pork barrel funds from one appropriation item to another."

This practice is known in legislative jargon as congressional insertion, according to Pimentel.

He said line item budgeting would also ensure transparency. "When the budget is passed, everybody will know where every centavo goes."

President's pork

Pimentel said that if the whole budget was not itemized, "it will become the pork barrel" of the President.

In his statement, he challenged Ms Arroyo to disclose all her discretionary, confidential and intelligence funds which, according to him, might be the equivalent of pork barrel.

The President claimed that she had received only P1 billion for the Presidential Social Fund (PSF) from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. during her first three years of office. But Pimentel noted that former President Joseph Estrada had said the fund was more than the amount cited by Ms Arroyo.

If the PSF is made part of the GAA that is subject to congressional scrutiny, everyone will know how much it is, according to the Senate minority leader.

Other discretionary funds of the President include the P1-billion contingent fund, P500-million intelligence fund and P2-billion calamity fund. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Gov't hard up ...

From page A1

P65 million as earlier reported), while each senator is entitled to P200 million, Boncodin said.

That's an awful lot of money which should have made a difference in the lives of the poor if spent properly.

But the pork barrel, called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), has been known to be a source of enrichment for unscrupulous legislators who receive kickbacks from private contractors handling their pet projects.

Boncodin said the Department of Budget and Management had released last month the P10 billion representing the first installment for the first semester.

Funding the other P10 billion was still a problem for the cash-strapped government, she said.

"Technically, it is there because the 2004 budget was just reenacted," the budget secretary told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

But she said the government was finding it hard to sustain the 2003 level of the PDAF because of the budget deficit.

She said funding for the remaining P10 billion would still "depend on the performance" of agencies involved in revenue collection.

Some senators have urged other lawmakers to give up their pork barrel to help the government deal with the budget deficit.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has formally asked Congress in the proposed budget for 2005 to slash by 40 percent the PDAF of senators and members of the House.

The cut, Boncodin said, would save the government almost P10 billion—half of the total savings that Ms Arroyo wanted to generate to help her manage the budget crisis.

The budget chief said the cut would reduce to P40 million the PDAF of each House member and to P120 million the PDAF of each senator.

Education and public works

In an RMN radio interview, Boncodin said the P10 billion could be realigned for education and public works.

"For the 2005 budget, we made a 40-percent reduction so we can save almost P10 billion there, but that's assuming that you cut that amount from the budget because you can add that to education or public works," she said.

When asked to clarify, Boncodin said that Ms Arroyo did not realign the P10 billion to other programs but removed it from the proposed budget.

Despite the cut of P10 billion, the proposed budget for 2005 still increased by P46 billion, from P861.6 billion to P907.1 billion.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimente Jr. registered opposition to the President's call for slashing the PDAF.

Pimentel said the President did not have the credibility to be trusted with a "monopoly" of public funds.

To this, Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "The President is determined to put our people at the center of governance and she will spend more time and resources to uplift the Filipino family."

Realignment

Boncodin acknowledged that Congress could realign some of the funds to other uses, including projects of departments that implement projects funded by the pork barrel.

"(The budget) is now in their hands. They can do whatever they want to do with it except that they cannot increase it," she said.

She said if members of Congress wanted to realign funds to other areas, they would have to take funds from one department or agency and transfer them to another.

Boncodin said realigning funds would affect the priority programs of Ms Arroyo, which she had asked Congress to support.

At least 200 of the 235 House members have agreed to a cut in their pork barrel but they have yet to meet to agree on the amount, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

De Venecia said the lawmakers agreed that the funds be spent on giving basic services to the poor, generating jobs and promoting an environment conducive to investment to keep the economy from collapsing.

Collection first

Boncodin said the executive and legislative branches of government had already agreed that Congress desist from passing new expenditures, including benefits for government workers, unless new taxes had been legislated.

"Collection first before expenses" is now the battle cry, she said.

Boncodin said the President's economic managers were still studying whether there would be a need to declare a "state of unmanageable fiscal deficit."

"The problem is severe. We cannot wait, we have to do something now," she said.

Ms Arroyo also wants to reduce the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of local government units by P35 billion. The IRA is the tax share of LGUs, which get 40 centavos of every peso in taxes collected by the government.

But Malacañang could not just dip its hands into the IRA because it had been set in the law. Some legislators said the President could only touch the funds if she declared a state of unmanageable fiscal crisis.

This was why Ms Arroyo asked the Development and Budget Coordinating Council last week to study the possibility of making the declaration.

That possibility still remains, Boncodin said.

Pork good, militant lawmaker insists

From page A1

stance, had disclosed that lawmakers stood to earn as much as 60 percent of the cost of an infrastructure project funded by their pork barrel through kickbacks provided by their favored contractors.

According to investigative reports, lawmakers had also been earning hefty kickbacks from pork projects, such as the construction of basketball courts, building of artesian wells and classrooms, and purchase of books and medicine.

Calls for the abolition of the pork barrel, otherwise known as the Priority Development Assistance Fund, have mounted as the specter of a fiscal crisis haunts the debt-ridden national government and threatens to blow up into a full-blown economic crisis. The cash-strapped government had allotted P20 billion for the pork barrel of lawmakers this year.

Delivery of services

Even so, Mariano said the abolition of the pork barrel would be acceptable "only if the government is able to fully provide for the needs of the people."

"Pork barrel in fact complements the delivery of services by the national government," the neophyte lawmaker said.

Bayan Muna representatives, however, had been accused by former National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of diverting portions of their pork barrel to communist guerrillas. Bayan Muna denied the charge and sued Gonzales for making such an accusation in a top-level security briefing held in Malacañang a few months ago.

Whatever, the Arroyo administration plans to slash by 40 percent the pork barrel allocation of lawmakers in its 2005 proposed national budget to ease its fiscal problems.

Mariano, however, said reducing the pork barrel allocation was a "wrong prescription" as the government could avail itself of other ways to cut expenditures, like reducing its appropriation for debt payment.

Other suggestions

Under public pressure, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said Friday that 200 of the 236 lawmakers were amenable to a 30-percent cut in their pork barrel.

In a statement, however, Rep. Faysah Dumarpa (Lakas, Lanao del Sur) suggested that lawmakers from the 26 poorest provinces be spared any cuts in their pork barrel.

"Even a miniscule slash in the PDAF allotment for depressed congressional districts is unthinkable," Dumarpa said.

The lawmaker said a cut in the pork barrel would deal these 26 poorest provinces a "double whammy" as the proposed budget for 2005 already called for a huge cut in expenditures for social services.

"The mandatory expenditure of the government has allotted for social services a meager 18 percent (of the national budget)," Dumarpa said.

In Tagbilaran City, all three congressmen from Bohol said they were not opposed to the reduction or even scrapping of the pork barrel under certain conditions.

Rep. Eladio Jala (third district) said a mechanism should be put in place to ensure that infrastructure and livelihood needs of barangays would be addressed.

Jala, chair of the House committee on government enterprise, pointed out that almost all the projects in barangays were funded by the pork barrel.

"It's almost impossible for barangay captains to access funds from Malacañang or from the executive department," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Explain to people

Rep. Roberto Cajes said the government must explain to the people the cut in the pork barrel of senators and congressmen.

"The people should be informed that the projects would be cut by half so they will be aware that this is done to save the country from a possible crisis," said Cajes, chair of the House committee on ethics.

Rep. Edgar Chatto (first district) said the government must also set up a mechanism for "direct, automatic and equitable release of funds to constituents' projects."

"The public should be well informed of the new mechanism to erase expectations that legislators are sources of development funds," said Chatto, the chair of the House committee on tourism.

He added that funds saved should be channeled to infrastructure and job creation projects that would also benefit his district. *With a report from Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gordon demands probe of CL flooding

From page A1

Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, heavy rains that lasted for a month submerged four regions in Luzon. The floods killed more than 350 people and destroyed over 150,000 hectares of farmland, according to archives.

It took at least five months before the 1972 floodwaters completely receded.

The death toll from the current floods rose to at least 32 yesterday as relief officials reported more drowning deaths.

The floods, unleashed by monsoon rains induced by typhoons "Marce" and "Chaba," have affected more than one million people in nearly 1,300 barangays and 17 provinces, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Damage to crops and property was provisionally estimated at P479 million.

No warning issued

Gordon said he learned from local government officials that flooding in the eastern portion of Paniqui in Tarlac was partly caused by the overflow of the San Roque Dam.

Operators of the dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan, released water last week without issuing a prior notice to the Paniqui government, local officials told Gordon, who is also the chair and chief executive officer of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The move caught residents of Paniqui, a first-class municipality with an 80,000 population, by surprise, the officials said.

"The rains had stopped, but the waters continued to rise in these areas," Paniqui Vice Mayor Joy Gilbert Lamorena told Gordon during a briefing at the municipal hall.

"I'm shocked at the level of water in Tarlac and Pangasinan," Gordon said at a joint briefing with Dagupan City Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez at the Museo ng Dagupan.

"I'm going to call for an inquiry ... so that we can talk about the early warning system [of the concerned agencies]," he added. "Tomorrow, I'll take the necessary action at the Senate."

Gordon said public works officials and operators of the Agno flood control system, and the various dam systems in Central Luzon, among others, would be summoned to a public hearing on the matter.

"There ought to be an investigation," Paniqui Vice Mayor Lamorena agreed with Gordon.

Others alerted

After visiting three evacuation centers in Paniqui and distributing relief goods, Gordon flew to Dagupan City in Pangasinan, where all the 35 barangays were submerged.

Unlike their colleagues in Paniqui, the officials in Dagupan got a faxed notice from the San Roque Dam operators last Tuesday that they were releasing water the next day, and managed to prepare.

The main culprit, Gordon later deduced from the explanations of the local officials, was the failure of the local authorities to dredge silted rivers, including the Cayangan, that runs through Dagupan.

Public works authorities managed to lend only one dredging machine, out of the five machines they promised to the Dagupan government, local officials said.

Gordon pledged to provide aluminum boats to the local Red Cross chapters in Paniqui and Dagupan for their rescue operations.

Woes under sunshine

Even as the sun broke over Central Luzon, the woes were not yet over for coastal villages in the region as a result of floodwaters draining out of the Pampanga River, known to old residents as the Rio Grande, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council said.

In San Luis, Pampanga, the flood was still eight feet high in Barangays Santa Rita, San Juan, San Nicolas, Santa Monica and San Agustin. These riverside villages remained submerged as the Pampanga River, which drains 30 rivers in the region, continued to overflow.

Sagum said all 17 villages in San Luis were accessible only by boat.

They were not alone in their misery.

Calamity in Bulacan

Also still under water were the towns of Apalit, Masantol, Macabebe and Sasmuan in Pampanga, Hagonoy and Calumpit in Bulacan, and Orani, Pilar and Samal in Bataan because they act as catch basins of floodwaters, said Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Vidal Querol.

In Bulacan, officials of Calumpit declared their town under a state of calamity as floodwaters as high as eight feet also submerged parts of the town.

They said the floodwaters had come from San Miguel town and from Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

Calumpit Mayor James de Jesus said waters began to rise in 19 villages yesterday morning. Worst-hit were Barangays Sapang Bayan, San Miguel, Sta. Lucia and Frances.

De Jesus said the flooding was the worst his town had seen in 10 years.

Housewife in tears

In Paniqui, the Tarlac River swelled Friday and breached some 700 meters of the 5-km dike, inundating Barangays Culibangbang, Bangayan and Nancamarinan, and submerging some houses in water and mud.

"The clothes on our back are the only things we've got ... We have no home to return to," Feliza Lardizabal said, tears welling up in her eyes.

She had fled rising floodwaters with her husband and three children before dawn on Friday.

Besides having to cope with the floodwaters, the local government was running out of medicine for evacuees suffering from diarrhea, fever, cough, colds and athlete's foot.

Tarlac reported the biggest number of evacuees.

As of yesterday, Florita Villar, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said at least 1,528 families in Moncada and 1,058 families in Paniqui had been moved to evacuation centers.

Querol thanked Navotas Mayor Tobby Tiangco for lending an amphibious vehicle that was used for rescue and relief operations in Paniqui.

The vehicle was stranded in the water yesterday after two days of evacuating residents and was pulled to dry ground by Paniqui residents.

Cut-off channel

Querol said at least 852,646 residents in Central Luzon (about 10 percent of the region's population) were affected by the floods.

In Candaba, Mayor Jerry Pelayo urged the Department of Public Works and Highways to take advantage of the sunny weather to build a cut-off channel for the Mandasig Dike there.

The proposed channel would ease the pressure on the dike eroded by strong currents from the Pampanga River.

A report from the Cordillera RDCC said more than P84 million worth of infrastructure in Kalinga and Mt. Province had been destroyed.

Kennon Road, a major route to and from Baguio City, remained closed to traffic. A lane in a section of the Marcos Highway in Pugo, La Union, was closed to traffic because of a landslide, but Naguilian Road was open to all types of vehicles.

In Pangasinan, floodwater in most parts of the province receded further yesterday and residents busied themselves cleaning up their houses.

Although the heavy rains had stopped and the floods were receding in some areas, Red Cross spokesperson Tess Usapdin said the affected population would need a week's supply of food and medical support before things could return to normal.

With reports from Frank Cimatu and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49
15 20 26 29 42 47

Mandaluyong probers still clueless

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOTHING.

That was what the Mandaluyong City police had in their hands a week after Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered a reinvestigation into the shooting incident that involved the sons of former Sen. Robert Jaworski and of businessman Tony Yap.

"There's still nothing; it's not that easy," said Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, Mandaluyong police director, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He admitted that his men had yet to get any significant new evidence or witness to merit a new complaint against Ryan Jaworski and Anjelo Elton Yap.

Reyes ordered a reinvestigation of the June 21 shooting in Mandaluyong after government prosecutors threw out the first criminal complaint filed against them by the police.

The dismissal of the charges drew strong public criticism, particularly against the Mandaluyong police for allegedly sloppy investigation.

Velasquez, the officer in the eye of the storm, was irked by the criticisms.

"It's difficult to comment on something they really don't know anything about," he said. "What we know is far different from what we can prove in court."

Expecting police to come up with new evidence in a given time, say a week, was also inappropriate considering the growing apathy of the alleged culprits—the groups of Jaworski and Yap, the official argued.

But the shooting was not a complicated case, unlike a terrorist attack or an encounter between two organized crime groups, another police official observed.

"What will happen in the Jaworski-Yap case will affect the public's perception of the police in general," he said. "Because if we failed to come up with results here, how could we expect to solve much more complicated cases?"

Still, solving the case or at least having it reopened won't be easy, Velasquez maintained, admitting that the same problem hounds Mandaluyong investigators.

"We're still looking for witnesses who would be willing to testify on who shot who," he said.

"What the prosecutors were looking for was a witness who could point to a direct relation between the respondents and the shooting," the official explained.

The incident turned the parking area of Saisaki restaurant in Greenhills into a virtual war zone.

Despite Ryan Jaworski suffering gunshot wounds in the legs and shrapnel injuries in an eye, only charges of illegal discharge of firearms, public scandal and malicious mischief were filed against him and Yap. These were subsequently dismissed by prosecutors for lack of probable cause.

"We won't stop looking for new witnesses and evidence," Velasquez said. "Who knows, one day, we'll get a break."

It's practically back to square one for the Mandaluyong police.

Velasquez said bullet slugs found at the scene were of no use to the investigation.

Tests on the slugs failed to find a match with the guns registered under the names of Yap and Jaworski at the Firearms and Explosives Division.

Hoping against hope, Velasquez said he even asked the lawyers of the suspects if they were still willing to pursue the case.

However, the lawyers responded with apathy.

"We have already made our position and we would no longer comment," Velasquez quoted Yap's legal counsel as saying.

The case, being criminal in nature, can be pursued with only the police acting as complainants.

Gokongwei firm loses case

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PERSISTENCE pays.

After several setbacks, a woman who filed an illegal dismissal case against officials of Digitel Communications Philippines finally won her case.

Last week, the Court of Appeals ordered Digitel to give the back pay and separation pay of Mariquit Soriano, who said that she was forced to resign from the company because of alleged harassment by two of its officials.

Soriano identified the officials as senior executive vice president Johnson Robert Go and business division senior vice president Eric Severino.

Go is the brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei, whose family owns Digitel.

Soriano said she was expecting to get P5.6 million from Digitel.

Aside from the back pay, the appellate court also ordered Digitel to pay Soriano P300,000 in moral and exemplary damages.

The former director for marketing and communications said she felt vindicated by the decision.

However, her former bosses could still appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Soriano resigned from Digitel in June 2000 over several instances of alleged sexual harassment by Go beginning 1999.

The woman, then 49, filed separate charges of illegal dismissal and acts of lasciviousness against Go and Severino, whom she claimed told her not to resist the sexual advances.

In April 2003, a labor arbiter dismissed Soriano's illegal dismissal complaint. She appealed before the National Labor Relations Commission, which also dismissed her case.

She then brought her complaint before the Court of Appeals.

In their response to Soriano's complaint, Go and Severino said her resignation was voluntary and she was never forced to quit.

Earlier, they described the sexual harassment allegation as "untruthful, absurd and impossible (coming from) a 49-year-old grandmother."

The acts of lasciviousness case is pending before the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court.

In another minor victory, Soriano has managed to get Go's name under the Bureau of Immigration watchlist. *With a report from Tina G. Santos*

Malabon eyes closed dump

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MALABON City Mayor Canuto Oreta is considering the reopening of the Catmon open dump to cut on expenses.

After the dump was closed six months ago, the city has relied on private contractors and is now spending more than P10 million monthly for garbage disposal.

The City Council closed the Catmon dump in January after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said that the 2.2-hectare facility had become a health risk to nearby residents.

In a statement, Oreta said reopening the dump would mean more savings for the city. But he told the INQUIRER yesterday that he was still carefully studying the plan.

However, other officials are not optimistic the plan would push through.

Republic Act 9003 prohibits the operation of open dumps where garbage is simply dumped in an area without being treated. Also, there is nothing to prevent fluids from the garbage to mix with the ground water.

Converting the Catmon dump into a sanitary landfill would also entail considerable cost.

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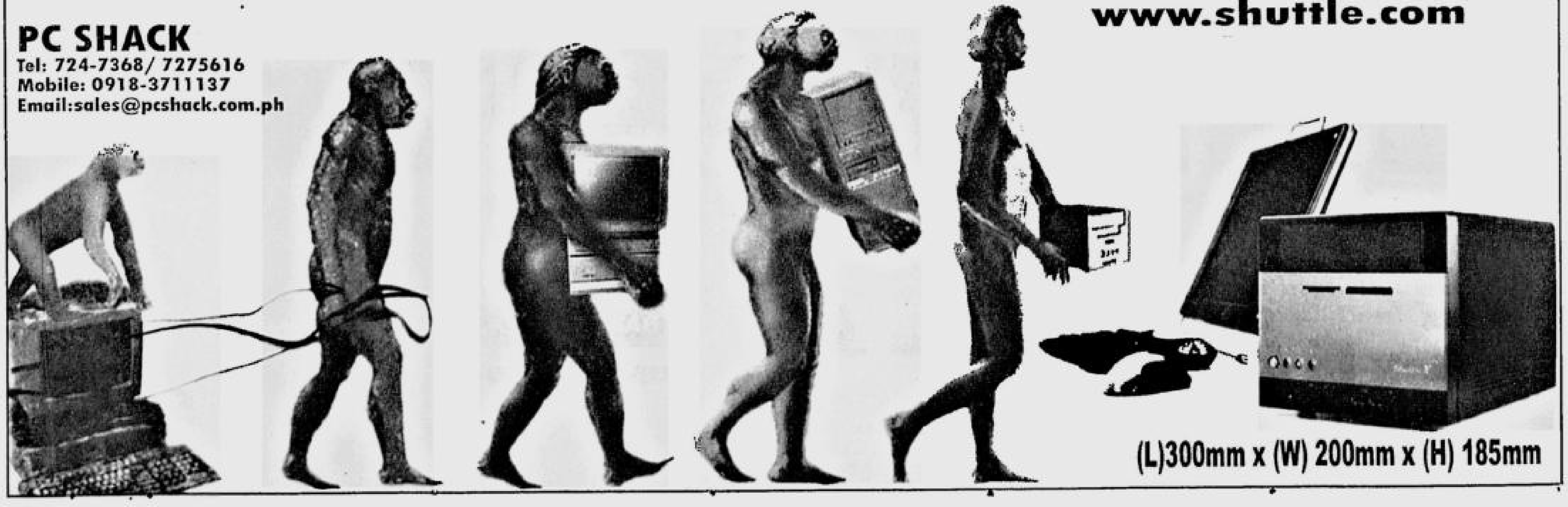
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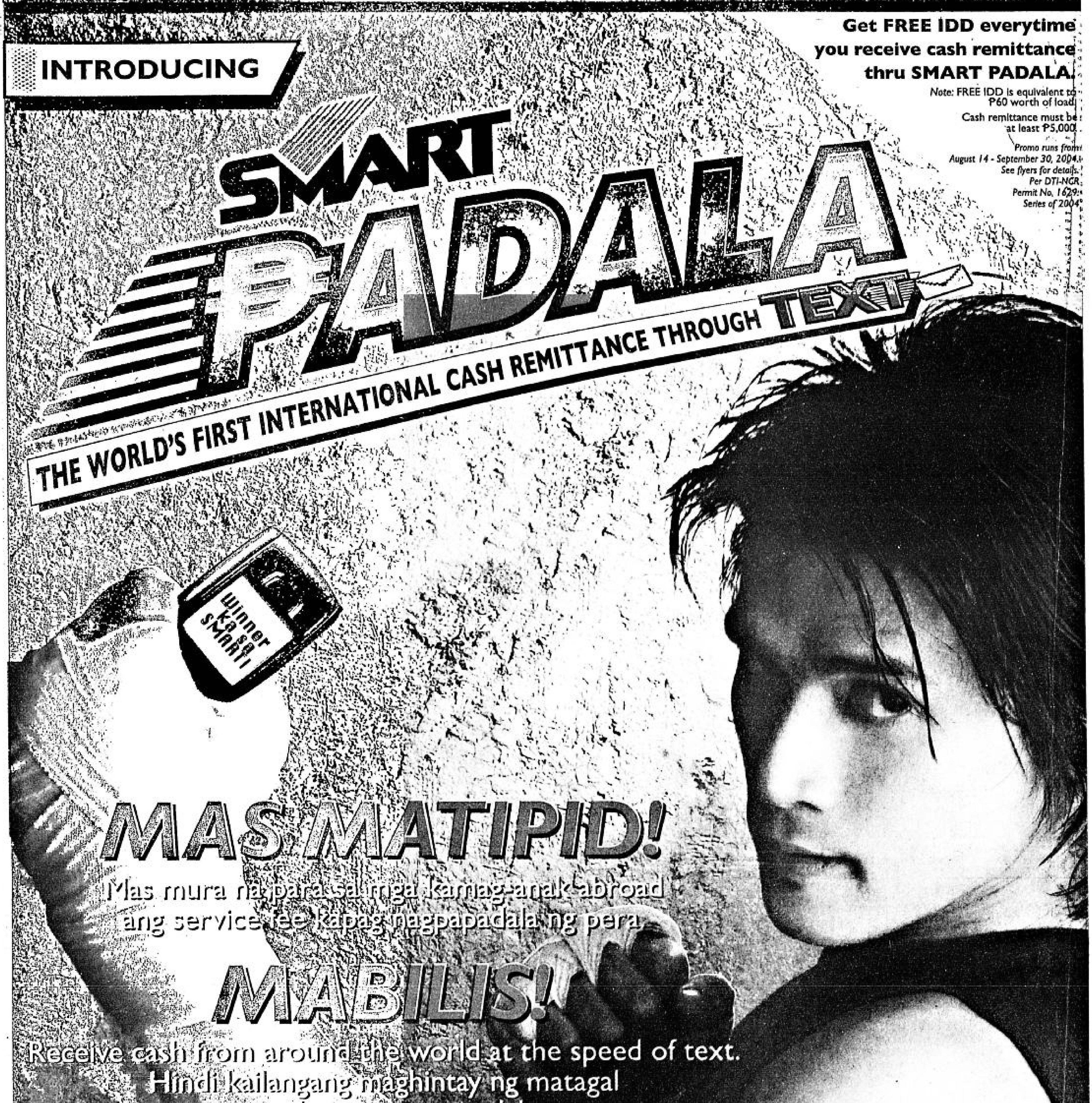

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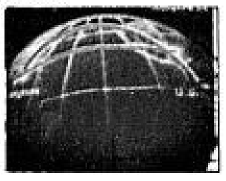
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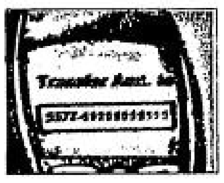

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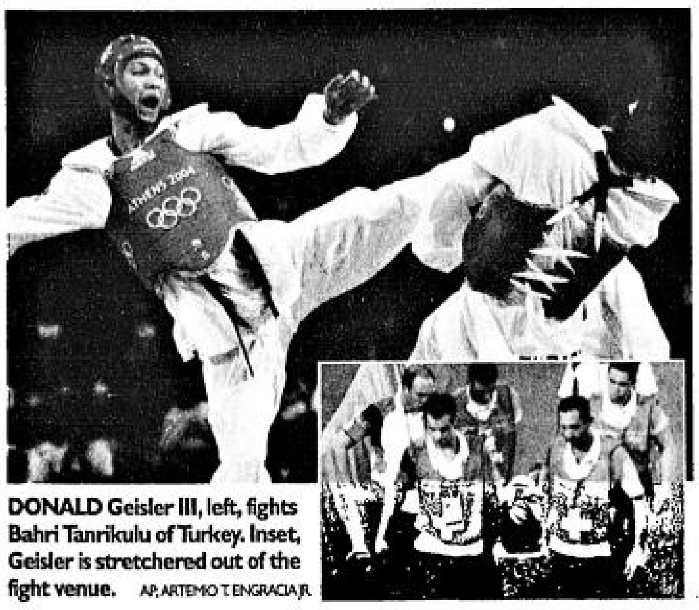
Bronze eludes never-say-die Rivero, Geisler


DONALD Geisler III, left, fights Bahri Tanrikulu of Turkey. Inset, Geisler is stretchered out of the fight venue. AP, ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Their bodies were beaten but their heads were unbowed and their spirit unbroken.

BRONZE/ A26

More stories on the Olympics on A28 to A30

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RP bet shortest in longest event of the Olympics

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—At 4-feet-11, Eduardo Buenavista may be the shortest person running the marathon, climax of the 28th Olympic Games, on

ATHENS 2004

RP BET/ A27

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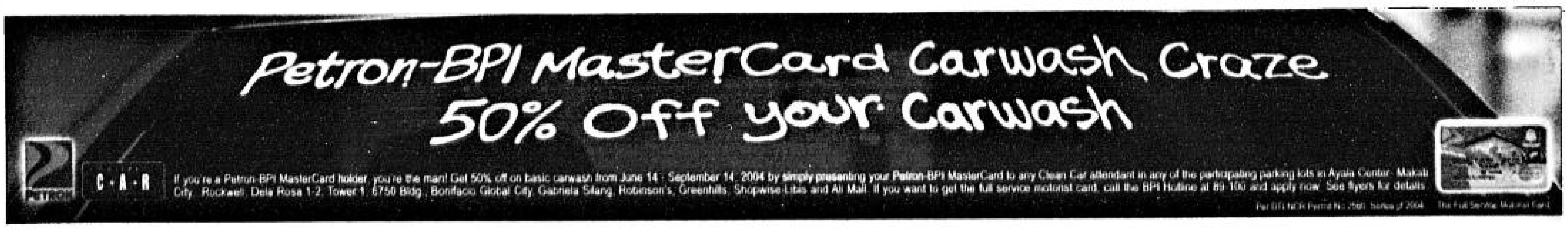
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Bronze eludes never-say-die . . .

From page A25

That's how it ended for the brave taekwondo fighters who put up the Philippines' final stand in the 28th Olympic Games Saturday.

It was a dramatic end to a roller coaster of a day—the courageous Donald David Geisler III being taken out of the arena in a stretcher and the youthful Mary Antoinette Rivero putting up a never-say-die fight against a vastly superior opponent.

The Olympic spirit is alive. Two Filipinos who fought with resilience in the face of adversity showed it at the Faliro Sports Pavilion on the penultimate day of Olympic Games action.

"Only 16 and yet so brave," was how a British television commentator described Rivero as she limped out of the mat and out of the stadium at the end of a long, long day in quest for the Olympic gold that had eluded scores of other and older Filipino athletes before her.

She ended up with nothing except bruises all over her body and injuries in the ankle, knee and hand. Yet she earned the admiration of the rest of the Philippine delegation and the thousands who watched her make a final bid for a medal—a losing fight against South Korean favorite Hwang Kyung Sun—in the repechage round of the women's under-67 kg class.

Rivero had single-handedly carried the medal-less Philippine team on the verge of a medal when she disposed of her opponents —Vanina Sanchez Beron of Argentina and Charmie Sobers of the Netherlands—in quick succession in the first two rounds.

Hometown favorite

Needing only another win to assure herself of a silver medal and a shot at the gold, she ran into hometown favorite Elisavet Mystakidou and a wildly cheering, chanting and stomping hometown crowd.

Known in Greece as the "Blonde Storm," Mystakidou was the only survivor of the four Greek entries in taekwondo. The Greeks needed a hero to salvage national pride and the capacity crowd made it known to everyone, including the undaunted Filipina.

Mystakidou squeezed out a dubious 3-2 victory and went on to the final, where she promptly lost to the Chinese favorite, Luo Wei. The loss wiped out Rivero's chance at a silver or gold but still left her with chance for a bronze.

Fighting injured and tired from her three previous fights, Rivero gamely battled the South Korean favorite, slipping, stumbling and missing. From fatigue, she could barely lift her legs to kick. On the verge of tears but not yet quite crying, she bravely picked herself up each time she fell and fought to the very end. She lost the fight, 6-2, but won the hearts of many.

"When she was out there fighting, she looked taller and stronger," said Robert Aventajado, president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association. "It's hard to imagine she is just a girl."

'She came so close'

Rivero was in tears as she left the Faliro Sports Pavilion, which, hours earlier, had been the scene of her biggest triumphs.

"She came so close. She was crying because she wanted to do more for our country," Aventajado said.

"It hurts. I know I could have won," she said of her match against her Greek opponent. While Filipino sports officials refused to call it a hometown decision, they lamented that the Greek girl's hits were not clear and that Rivero was scoring clear shots that failed to register in the scoring.

Aventajado, who organized taekwondo in the Philippines 30 years ago, was equally proud of Geisler, who had lost his first-round fight against eventual finalist Bahri Tanrikulu only on superiority after the match was tied at 9-all.

Fighting in the repechage round of the men's under-80 in an attempt to salvage a medal, the 25-year-old Geisler, a veteran of the Sydney Olympics, needed three victories to the bronze. His first opponent in the round was Hichem Hamdouni of Tunisia.

The first round ended in a 6-6 tie but Geisler was looking good as he took the lead early in the second round. The Tunisian tied the match at 7-7 when suddenly, Geisler went for a kick and almost at the same time, Hamdouni raised his right leg with the same intention.

Grimacing in pain

Their legs clashed, Geisler's left ankle crashing into the Tunisian's right knee. From where he was, Philippine team medical director Raul Canlas said he heard a snap and thought it was a fracture.

Geisler hung on to his opponent, grimacing in pain. Then he fell to the corner, unable to get up. After anesthetic was sprayed on the injury, he tried to stand up, but it was obvious he could no longer stand on his two feet. He limped back to the center of the mat, insisting on fighting on one leg.

Reluctantly, the referee resumed the fight, but it was apparent that the Tunisian didn't want to fight a badly injured opponent. After a few seconds, the referee stopped the fight with 1:41 left.

Immediately, the Tunisian raised Geisler's hand in a gesture that displayed the Olympic spirit of both fighters. The crowd, which had earlier jeered Rivero into losing her fight against her Greek opponent, got into the same spirit and cheered the two protagonists.

Geisler, fighting off tears and holding his head

BRONZE/ A28

SAMSUNG

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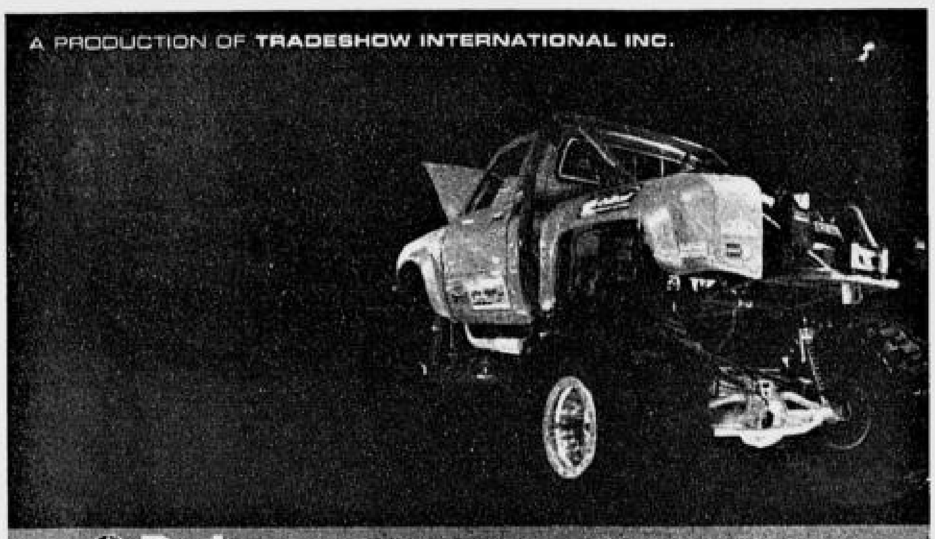

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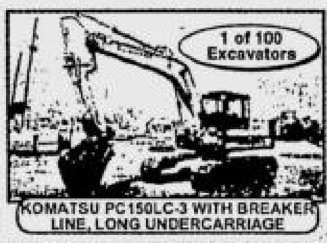
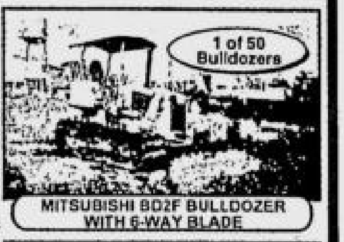
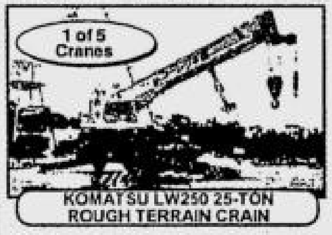


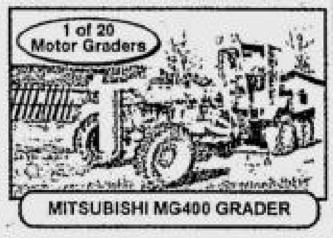
KOMATSU PC150LC-3 WITH BREAKER LINE, LONG UNDERCARRIAGE



MITSUBISHI BD2F BULLDOZER WITH 6-WAY BLADE



KOMATSU LW250 25-TON ROUGH TERRAIN CRAIN



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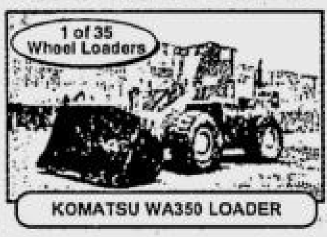

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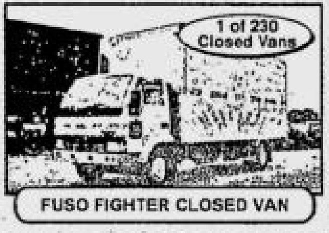

FUSO FIGHTER CLOSED VAN

1 of 20 Wing Vans
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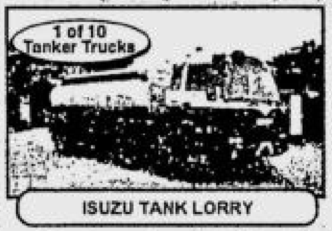
1 of 20 Tractor Heads
ISUZU 6W TRACTOR HEAD



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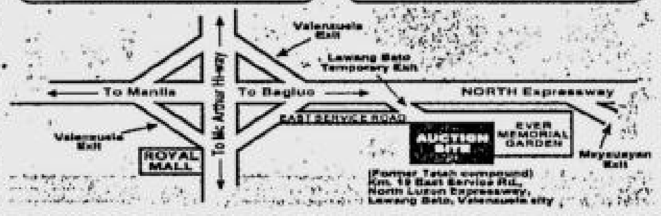

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The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in the pages of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine
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sunday INQUIRER magazine GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

RP bet shortest in longest event of the Olympics

From page A25

Sunday, but he's definitely not the shortest man in athletics. That distinction belongs to Australia's Kurt Fearnley, who is 4-7. He is entered in the men's wheelchair 1500 meters.

* * *

Robert Aventajado's hands were clammy seconds after Mary Antoinette Rivero won her first fight in the women's under-67 kg, putting her within two wins of a silver medal and three of a gold. After the match with Argentina's Vanina Sanchez Beron ended in a 10-10 tie, it took what seemed like eternity (actually just a couple of minutes) before the referee awarded the match to Rivero on superiority.

"*Nakakanerbiyos*," Aventajado said. "Worse than Abu Sayyaf." He was, of course, referring to his role—criticized by some—in the negotiations for the release of the hostages held by the bandit group four years ago.

* * *

A doctor at the clinic at the Main Press Center, which serves half of the estimated 21,500 media men covering the Olympics, asked a Filipino journalist how many medals the Philippines has won so far. None, he was told.

"None? Oh, your athletes must be clean," he said, referring to the doping incidents that have haunted the Games. The biggest doping scandal, of course, involved the two local heroes, Greek sprinters Costas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou, who did not show up for pre-Games tests and told a tale of an accident that even the local police did not believe. They were forced to withdraw from the Games.

* * *

Marathon runner Eduardo Buenavista did not bother to check out the course from Marathon, from where the event got its name, to the Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens.

The course is hot and hilly with long uphill climbs that are certain to slow down the times of the field, which includes Kenya's Paul Tergat, who holds the world record of 2 hours, 4 minutes and 55 seconds.

BUENAVISTA

Buenavista has a personal record of 2:18.44, which should put him more than four kilometers behind Tergat at the finish, if they both run their personal bests. One wonders what gave Buenavista such confidence in his performance that he didn't find it necessary to check the route.

* * *

Historically, the marathon has always been associated with Greece. The Greek messenger, Pheidippides, made the original—and fatal—run (it was not a race then) when he covered the distance from Marathon to Athens to deliver the news of the Athenian army's victory over the Persians in the Battle of Marathon half a millennium before Christ.

Almost 2,500 years later, Spyridon Louis ran the same approximate distance and won the event when the Olympic Games was revived for the first time in the modern era in 1986.

But neither Pheidippides nor Louis actually ran the exact and official marathon distance of 42.195 km. Officials later determined that measure as the exact marathon distance in London for the 1908 Olympics. It was actually the distance between the Windsor Castle to the finish line in front of the royal box at the Olympic Stadium in London.

* * *

The Filoxenos at the Olympic Village, where close to 20,000 athletes and officials are billeted, is perhaps the biggest restaurant in the world. It has a seating capacity of 6,500 and serves about 60,000 meals a day.

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Hot start for Reyes, Pagulayan

REYES

PAGULAYAN

BILLIARDS Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes took the last five racks in an impressive victory and reigning World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan routed his Taiwanese rival yesterday to lead the opening-day winners in the On Cue 3: Continental Conquest tournament at the Trade Hall of Robinsons Galleria.

Reyes, the 1999 World Pool champion, whipped Marcus Chamat of Sweden, 9-4, while Pagulayan easily prevailed over World Pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei of Chinese-Taipei, 9-1.

Two-time World Pool champion Chao Fong-pang of Chinese-Taipei downed Ralf Souquet of Germany, 9-6, and Yang Chin-shun beat Kunihiko Takahashi of Japan, 9-4.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte did the ceremonial lag to open the event presented by ABS-CBN with the support of Puyat Sports. Also present were Puyat Sports top honcho Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Sen. Alfredo Lim.

Reyes started slow but hit his stride when world No. 7 Chamat fell prey to a series of lapses.

Chamat drew cheers with his golden ace on his break in the second rack. He later scored on Reyes' break to enjoy a 2-1 lead.

Reyes wrested the upper hand at 4-3, but Chamat tied it at 4-all.

Pagulayan dominated Chang, taking an 8-0 lead to the dismay of fans who were expecting a fight from his rival in their grudge rematch.

ABS-CBN, through chief operating officer Gabby Lopez and VP for Sports Peter Musngi, has put up a $50,000 cash purse for the event. The champion gets the top prize of $20,000 with $10,000 going to the runner-up.

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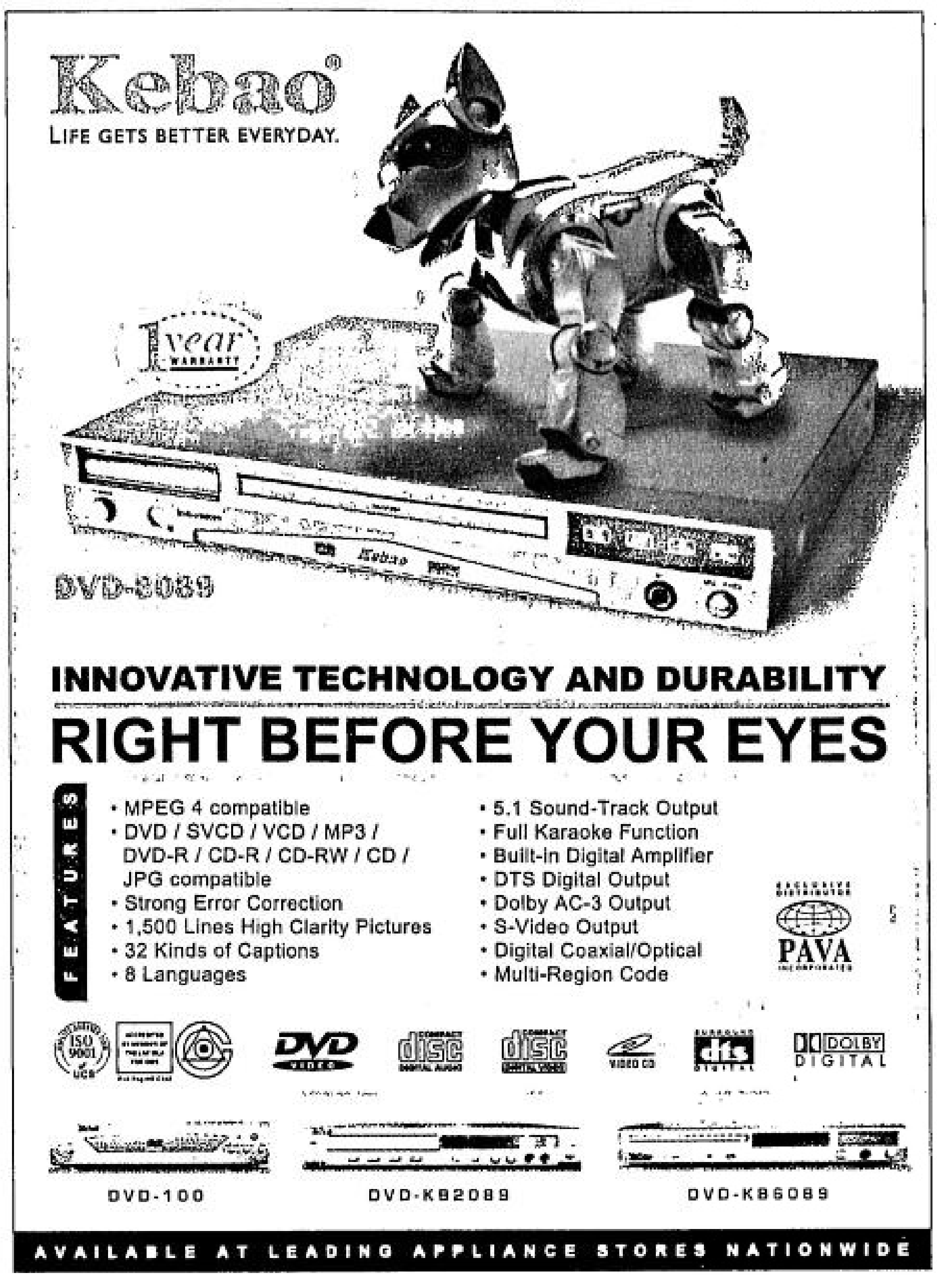

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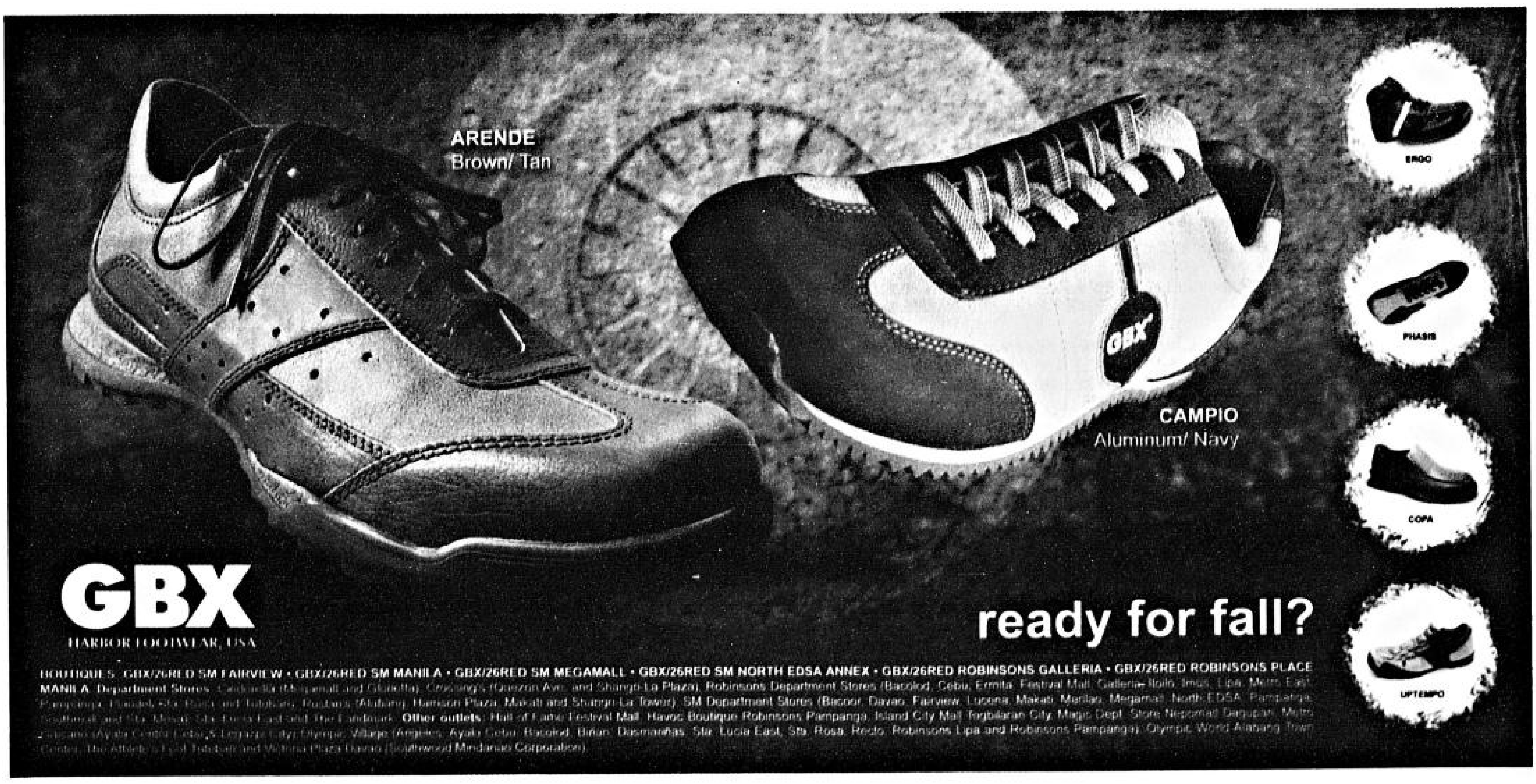

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Eagles down Falcons, clinch first UAAP Final Four ticket

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
11:30 a.m.--UE vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.--UE vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.--La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
6 p.m.--La Salle Vs Adamson (Jrs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

JC INTAL and LA Tenorio made sure Ateneo would be in the Final Four for the sixth straight time.

The Eagles easily secured the first semifinal slot as they overwhelmed the Adamson Falcons, 83-63, yesterday in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"We're just taking it one game at a time, that's what's working for us. A lot of our players are doing their roles but we still have to work harder each game," said Ateneo coach Sandy Arespacochaga.

In the other senior game, Mac Cardona shored up La Salle's offense by firing 25 points as the Archers overpowered the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 86-77.

"We're getting our rhythm," said coach Franz Pumaren after La Salle's first three-game winning streak of the season.

Ateneo took the solo top spot at 9-2. La Salle, which has won 14 straight games against the Tigers since 1999, stood third with a 7-4 slate. UST remained winless in the second round and dropped to seventh at 4-7, along with Adamson.

The Eagles opened a 37-27 lead in the second quarter and kept the Falcons at bay from there as Intal and Tenorio paced a balanced attack with 13 points each. Magnum Membrere added 11 for Ateneo.

A 17-4 finish gave Ateneo that 20-point edge at the buzzer.

In junior play, the La Salle Bengals dealt the Tiger Cubs their first loss of the season,64-56, but the UST squad remained on top with a 9-1 record.

The score:

SECOND GAME (SRS)

LA SALLE 86—Cardona 25, Tang 12, Benitez 10, Yeo 8, Cabatu 8, Casio 5, Araña 5, Maierhoffer 4, Gavino 4, Villanueva 3, Villanueva 3, Aquino 2, Gatchalian 0, Cua 0.

UST 77—Vizcarra 15, Luanzon 11, Pribhdas 9, De Guzman 9, Espiritu 8, Duncil 7, Evangelista 6, Cortez 6, Manching 3, Allera 2, Cuan 1, Dizon 0.

Quarters: 18-15, 37-41, 60-54, 86-77.

THIRD GAME (SRS)

ATENEO 83—Intal 13, Tenorio 13, Membrere 11, Bugia 9, Del Rosario 9, Escalona 7, Krämer 6, Tiu 6, Aguilar 5, Arao 4, Barracoso 0, Nkemakolam 0, Quimson 0, Escueta 0.

ADAMSON 63—Bono 16, Alonzo 14, Abadia 13, Tiongco 8, Gandarosa 4, Hate 4, Catabay 4, Agustin 0, Canuday 0, Poloapoy 0, Tajonera 0, Hugnalan 0.

Quarters: 24-20, 44-36, 59-49, 83-63.

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	9	4
PCU	9	4
Letran	8	5
SSC	7	5
Mapua	6	6
San Beda	6	6
JRU	4	8
St. Benilde	1	12

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs San Beda (Jrs)
1:15 p.m.—SSC vs San Beda (Srs)
3 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Jrs)
4:45 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Srs)

Stags start uphill climb

THE SAN Sebastian Stags now find themselves in an unfamiliar situation.

While a Final Four slot used to be a sure thing for the Stags, they now have to scramble to keep their semifinal bid alive in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

To stay in contention, San Sebastian (7-5) must hurdle San Beda (6-6) at 1:15 p.m. today.

Mapua (6-6) also guns for a share of fourth spot when the Cardinals collide with the out-of-it Jose Rizal Bombers at 4:45 p.m.

San Sebastian, runner-up to defending champion Letran last season, hopes to find its winning form again after suffering back-to-back losses against front-runners Philippine Christian and Perpetual Help, who are tied for the lead at 9-4.

The Knights are holding third at 8-5.

San Beda is also coming from a heartbreaking setback against Letran. The Lions held an 18-point lead in the fourth quarter against the Knights in their last meeting only to lose in overtime, 79-70.

Mapua, meanwhile, tries to avoid another upset after the struggling St. Benilde Blazers scored their first win against the Cardinals last week.

Jasmine W. Payo

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID for theCENTRAL MIS (DATA WAREHOUSING) MODULE 1 - DEPOSITS and TRADE MIS PROJECT SYSTEMS INTEGRATION and DATA WAREHOUSE IMPLEMENTATION

The ***Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)*** is conducting a public bidding for the ***Central MIS (Data Warehousing) Modul 1 - Deposits and Trade MIS Project***. The bidding will be governed by ***Republic Act 9184***. Prospective Systems Integrators/Data Warehouse Implementers (SI/DWIs) should be registered with LBP and/or the Department of Budget and Management – Government eProcurement Service (DBM-GEPS). The selected SI/DWI will accomplish the following tasks:

1. Provide the required technology components (i.e. hardware, software, training) and all the related services involved, including:
   1.1 Delivery, installation, testing and deployment of the hardware and software components that will serve as the foundation infrastructure of the Data Warehouse covering all the identified MIS requirements of LandBank;
   1.2 Design, development, implementation and testing of the first two (2) Central MIS Projects – Deposits MIS and Trade MIS.
2. Train and transfer knowledge to all identified LandBank personnel on the operation and maintenance of the Data Warehouse for the Bank to attain self-sufficiency;
3. Develop and install the identified support systems including documentation and submission of all related manuals of operations and other necessary systems documentation.

The project is estimated to require ***up to eighteen (18) months after the award of the contract; however LBP will consider all bids whose project schedules do not exceed twenty four (24) months***.

The minimun requirements for interested registered suppliers are as follows:
- Solid SI/DWI experience and capabilities; and
- Stable financial performance for the past three (3) years (2001to 2003)

Preference shall be given to registered suppliers who have previously handled and successfully completed SI/DWI projects with Philippine Government agencies or their instrumentalities and/or domestic banks, other financial institutions and/or service-oriented companies.

Interested SI/DWIs may secure the ***Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing for the Public Bidding of the Central MIS (Data Warehousing) Module 1 Project Systems Integration and Data Warehouse Implementation*** from:

THE IT-BAC SECRETARIAT
c/o Florencio Mariano or Alona Manabat
Technology Management Group
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
1598 M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Sts.,
Ermita, Manila 1004, Philippines

Telephone : (632) 405-7123 or 405-7455
Fax No : (632) 528-8578
Contact Person : Head- IT-BAC Secretariat
Email address : ITBAC@mail.landbank.com

Said eligibility requirements shall be available at the above address from ***September 1 to 16, 2004, from 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+08:00)***. All queries and/or clarifications should only be made in writing through formal letters sent by fax and/or email messages to the IT-BAC Secretariat.

All responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements must be submitted on or before ***September 17, 2004 (Friday) up to 11:45 a.m. only, (GMT+08:00),*** to the CHAIRMAN of the IT-BAC through the Head, IT-BAC Secretariat. Only those parties who have passed the Eligibility Requirements and have been short-listed may participate in the actual public bidding for the Central MIS Module 1 Project Systems Integration / Data Warehouse Implementation.

Short-listed bidders shall be notified accordingly. Bidding documents (e.g. Terms of Reference / Bid Specifications, Selection Criteria for Bid Evaluation, Post-Qualification Criteria, Proof-of-Concept Requirements) may be secured from ***September 24 to October 4, 2004, from 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+08:00), upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement.***

All short-listed bidders will be invited to attend the ***Pre-Bid Conference*** on ***October 8, 2004, (Friday) at 10:00 a.m. (GMT+08:00) at the 10th floor, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila***. Deadline for the submission of all technical and financial proposals is on ***November 12, 2004 (Thursday), at 11:00 a.m., (GMT+08:00), also at the 10th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza***.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, payable to the Land Bank of the Philippines subject to Sections 27 and 28 of the ***IRR of RA 9184***. Requests for additional information and/or queries on the information contained in the bidding documents should only be made through formal letters sent by fax and/or email messages to the IT-BAC Secretariat.

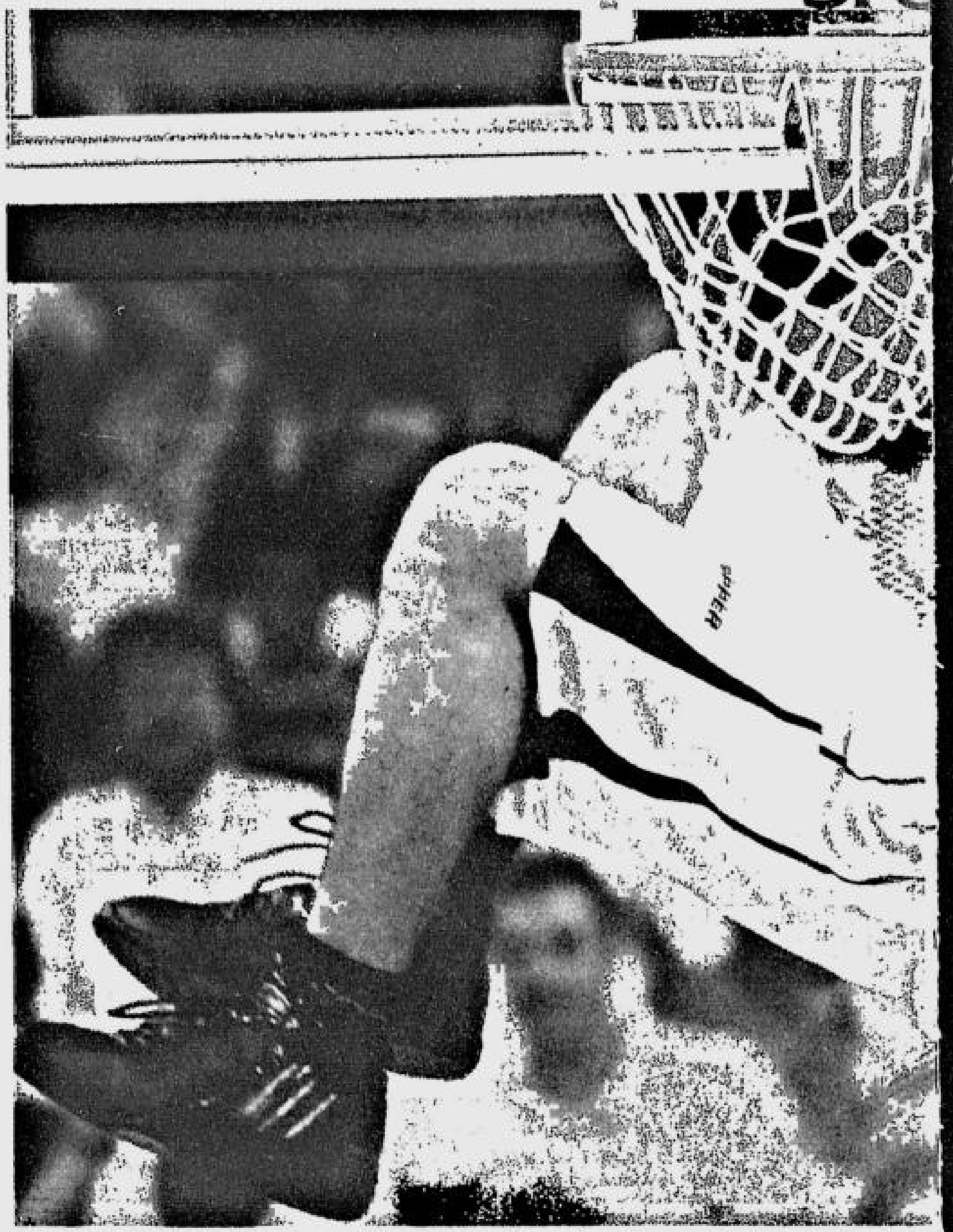
The schedule of opening of the technical and financial bids is on ***November 12, 2004 (Friday) at 11:30 a.m. (GMT+08:00)*** at the above-mentioned address. The ***quality-cost based system*** shall be followed in evaluating the technical and financial bids.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is ***One Hundred Thirty Million Pesos (Php 130,000,000),*** which shall be sourced from the funds of the Land Bank of the Philippines. The budgeted amount is inclusive of VAT and all applicable taxes and duties.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formalities in the responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **GILDA E. PICO**
EVP, Agrarian and Domestic Banking Sector/
Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI - Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2004)



ARGENTINE Luis Alberto Scola caps his country's golden night with an emphatic slam in the closing Argentina defeated Italy, 84-69, for the gold medal.

Cry no more

Victories in basketball, foo

ATHENS—After 52 years without an Olympic gold medal, Argentina captured two in a single day here Saturday when the men's basketball team followed the football squad to a championship.

Luis Scola scored 25 points and Argentina defeated Italy 84-69 in the Olympic basketball final some 12 hours after Argentina defeated Paraguay, 1-0, in the men's football final.

"It's an amazing feeling," Argentina guard Emanuel Ginobili said. "It's unbelievable. After 52 years without a gold medal for Argentina we made it twice in a day.

"It's difficult to describe and express my feelings. I want to cry and at the same time to laugh. I can't wait to go back to Argentina and see the joy in the face of our people." Argentina coach Ruben Magnano was pleased to be part of Argentina's greatest day in Olympic history.

"We're living through exciting moments," he said. "I feel a great deal of pride for my country. I'm honored to lead this team that has brought such joy to my country." For Scola, it was a dream come true.

"It's the happiest day of my life," Scola said. "I won the gold medal. From my childhood I was waiting for this moment. I'll never forget the moments we lived here." Italy was seeking a first-even b
Italians' only prio
from losing to the
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Moscow Olympics

Massimo Bulle
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with 9:09 to play.

But Alejandro
3-pointers and
points in a 12-1 ru
minutes to secure
victory.

Montecchia fini
while NBA guard
for Argentina, w
United States in th

Matteo Sorgan
Pozzecco led Ita
each.

Laguna five starts south swing on torrid note

ILOILO CITY—The Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring, starring Danny Capobres, downed the Iloilo Warriors, 72-61, Saturday to kick off its southern swing in the National Basketball Conference (NBC) finals on a bright note.

Capobres, who saw action in the PBA, unloaded eight of his game-high 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. "Ningning" Lazaro kept the North lead with a 5-3 win-loss card.

To the disappointment of hometown fans at the jampacked Iloilo Sports Complex, the Warriors of the Iloilo Basketball League headed by businessman Robert Uy fell to its seventh loss in 13 games to remain lodged at third place in the Southern standings.

"We are on a great start here in the south. Hopefully, we can maintain it and win a couple of games more," said Laguna playing coach Mike Buendia after the victory in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

Compounding the Warriors' woes was the neutralizing of Carlos Sayon Jr., the league's leading scorer, who was limited to a season-low four points. He missed all but one of his eight attempts.

The NBC Game of the Week on Sundays at 4 p.m. will resume next weekend on NBN 4. The NBC matches can also be viewed on Prime Channel on Monday (8 a.m.), Friday (8 a.m. and 2 p.m.), Saturday (1 p.m.), and Sunday (9 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

Brin's Thai c

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thai light welterweight Manus Boonjumnong credits the support of his country's King Bhumibol Adulyadej for helping him win the gold medal at the Olympics.

His family in Ratchaburi province, 95 kilometers (59 miles) west of Bangkok, on Sunday ascribed his victory to the spirit of his late trainer and various local spirits, including the Monkey God.

And now that's he's coming home from Greece, Manus wants to see his infant son—presciently named Athens, after the scene of his triumph.

Manus won his gold medal Saturday night, beating Yudel Johnson Cedeno of
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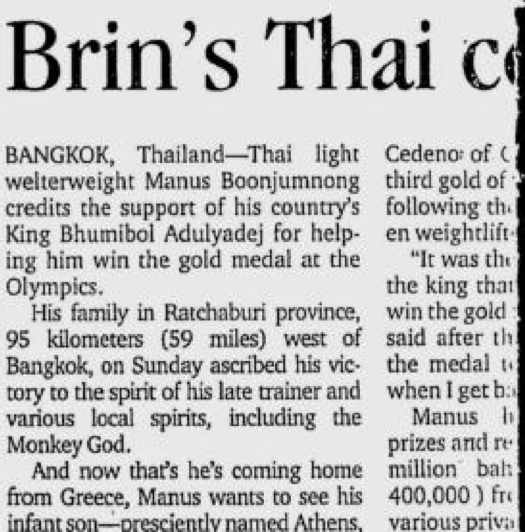

AMERICAN Steven Lopez (left) defeats Turkey's Ba earlier ousted Filipino Donald Geisler, for the men's taekwondo gold.

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econds of the men's Olympic basketball final. Scolari finished with a team-high 25 points as

AFP

for Argentina

tball end 52-year drought

ketball gold. The medal was a silver Soviet Union in the cott-marred 1980

scored five consec- Italy within 61-59

ontecchia sank two cola scored four over the next five Argentina's historic

hed with 17 points Ginobili added 16 ich defeated the semifinals. and Gianmarco with 12 points

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Soragana and Gianluca Basile had given Italy a 54-51 lead with 4:41 to play in the third quarter.

But Argentina scored the final nine points of the period, with Scola sinking five and Montecchia's layup at the buzzer giving Argentina a 60-54 edge entering the fourth quarter.

Argentina stretched their first-half lead as large as 34-22 before Italy rallied within 43-41 at half-time. Ginobili scored 13 points for Argentina in the first half while Scola had 12.

Argentina won its first Olympic gold medal in 52 years with a 1-0 triumph over Paraguay in the football final.

Carlos Tevez, with his eighth goal of the tournament, was Argentina's hero as his team won a first ever football gold.

Tevez, 20, struck early in the first half of a final Argentina dominated and in which it kept its impressive record of not having conceded a goal in the tournament.

Paraguay went into the match already handicapped by the absence of injured top-scorer Jose Cardozo who had grabbed five of his team's 12 goals on their way into the final.

They then had two players sent off, but were still delighted to walk off with the first Olympic medal of any kind in the country's history.

For Argentina, owner of two World Cup titles, it was a first Olympic football gold to go with two silver medals in 1928 and 1996. *AFP*

nqueror goes all the way

ba 17-11. It was the he games for Thailand, victories of two wom- rs.

blessing of his majesty gave me the power to medal," a joyous Manus bout. "I will present his majesty the king k home."

s been guaranteed vards worth at least 20 (US$480,000, euro n the government and e companies.

vard that he's most look- hold," said his wife, Lek, d son, Athens.

Due to a rigorous training schedule and several bouts abroad, Manus has had no chance to see his infant son, the couple's second child.

Thousands of people gathered at his family's home Saturday night to watch the fight, which was broadcast shortly after midnight local time, and then stayed to celebrate until dawn.

During the match, the boxer's father and mother clutched pictures of King Bhumibol and their son's first boxing trainer to their chests for luck.

And because Manus was born in the year of the monkey, his wife prayed beforehand at a shrine to the Monkey God for good fortune.

Boonjumnong won Thailand's third ever Olympic boxing gold medal when he outsmarted Johnson in Saturday's light welterweight (64kg) final.

Johnson was quick on his feet but he could never catch the back-peddling Thai, who prevented Cuban boxers from sweeping the three golds they were challenging for in Saturday's opening finals.

Yuriorkis Gamboa, who eliminated world champion Somjit Jongjohor of Thailand in the second round, beat Frenchman Jerome Thomas 38-23 to win the flyweight (51kg) title. *AP*

Third place offers US team some consolation

ATHENS—The United States men's basketball team can console itself with two things: third place, and the highest point total of the Olympic tournament.

The Americans took the bronze-medal game seriously Saturday and earned some revenge in a 104-96 victory over Lithuania.

Though they didn't get what they came to Athens for, they didn't embarrass themselves in their finale.

"You want to win the whole thing, but you've got to cherish the fact that you were able to win something," Allen Iverson said. "You come all the way over here to Greece and then go home with nothing? That's a lot worse."

Defeating one of three teams that beat them earlier in the tournament, the Americans got 22 points from Shawn Marion, 15 from Iverson and 14 apiece from Lamar Odom and Stephon Marbury.

Just like their quarterfinal victory over Spain, the key factor was outside shooting. After missing all five of their 3-point attempts in the first half, the Americans made eight in the second half. Four came in a fourth quarter that the U.S. team closed by scoring 21 of the final 35 points.

The 104 points was the most by any team in the men's tournament, topping the 102 the U.S. team had against Spain two nights earlier.

"I think we ought to be real positive about them and what they did, the commitment they made and the sacrifice they made," United States coach Larry Brown said. "I said this before: This is the greatest time I ever had as a coach, and I don't know if I've ever been more proud of a group of people after tonight than this group. It has not been easy."

The start of the game was delayed 48 minutes after both teams arrived wearing white uniforms. It also included a second half that started with no coaches on the American bench, Brown emerging from the tunnel 50 seconds after play had started, his assistants beating him out by only 30 seconds.

"I could say I had acid reflux, but that happened last week," Brown said. "They changed the clock on us, and I've got two new hips. We were in a slow jog trying to get here."

Strange stuff, but not quite as weird as the Americans dropping three games after they had lost only two in the previous 68 years. *AP*

Women get basketball job done for Stars and Stripes

WITH the fall of their men's counterparts, Lisa Leslie and the women's team were the ones to hold the flag high for the US in Olympic basketball. REUTERS

ATHENS—Veterans Lisa Leslie and Dawn Staley refused to let the United States Olympic women's basketball dynasty suffer the same ignoble fate as that of the American men.

Leslie and Staley scored key baskets in the final minutes and the US women captured their third consecutive gold medal here Saturday, outlasting Australia, 74-63, to capture their fifth title in the past six Games.

A day after the US men's National Basketball Association stars were beaten by Argentina in a semifinal to end their three-Games reign, the Women's NBA Dream Team denied the Aussies in a rematch of the 2000 Olympic final.

"Certainly it made us a little more focused," Staley said of the men's loss.

Joining US women's football and softball teams as Athens champions, the WNBA squad extended a 10-year American unbeaten streak in global tournaments to 43-0 since a 1994 World Championship semifinal loss to Brazil.

Tina Thompson scored 18 points while US captain Staley added 14 and star center Leslie contributed 13 points and eight rebounds for a US squad that won its 25th Olympic game in a row. *AFP*

China lauds its Olympic achievers

BEIJING—China's government heaped praise on the country's Olympic champions Sunday, celebrating its best-ever gold medal haul as a boon for "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

"The motherland is proud of you, and the people are proud of you," the State Council, or cabinet, said in a message carried by government media.

As the Athens Olympics wound to a close on Sunday, China began counting down to its hosting of the 2008 games in Beijing — a source of enormous pride for the communist leadership.

The country's achievements in Athens "greatly increased China's confidence in hosting the 2008 Olympic Games," the cabinet said.

China won a record 31 gold medals in Athens as of Sunday morning—second only to the United States and exceeding sports officials' stated hopes of "some 20 gold medals."

While China won 28 golds in Sydney in 2000, authorities had downplayed expectations of a similar tally in Athens because the delegation included a smaller number of Olympics veterans. Instead, China's team mostly comprised first-timers seeking experience ahead of 2008. *AP*

Bronze eludes . . .

From page A26

in frustration, was taken off the mat and onto a stretcher that took him out of the pavilion and to the Olympic Village hospital. The crowd gave Geisler the biggest cheer for a loser as he was being taken out.

The X-rays showed how badly he was injured. Although there was no fracture, he had dislocated his left ankle. Doctors snapped back into place two dislocated tendons and put him on a special orthopedic boot that allowed him to walk on crutches.

He was ambulant the morning after the fight.

Dr. Canlas revealed that even Rivero was injured, though not as badly, throughout the day. She sustained one injury after another through her first three fights and by the time she faced the Korean in the repechage round, she was already badly beaten.

"She got hurt after the first fight, but I didn't hear her complain at all," said Canlas, the team's medical director. "I knew she was having a hard time, but she just kept on fighting. That's how brave she really is."

Rivero's parents and two brothers, who are also in the national pool, witnessed the girl's bravery and said not a word when her day was done.

"But I know that, like me, they're hurting because they saw the fights. I know that, like me, they believe I could have won a medal," Rivero said.

"She showed a big fighting heart," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. Rivero's performance, he said, "bolsters my belief that we should concentrate on individual sports where we have a good chance to win. Taekwondo is definitely one of them."

Eric Buhain, chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, said Rivero gave her best.

"There's nothing more we could ask for from the way she fought," Buhain said. "It's sad that she lost, but she fought very bravely."

"I'm proud that these young woman and men represented our country in the Olympics," said Aventajado. "We had good materials but we got bad breaks."

Even Tshomlee Go, who lost his first match in the first round in the men's under-57 category, put up a brave fight although he never got the chance for a bronze in the repechage round.

"I'm happy with the team's performance, even with Tshomlee," Aventajado said. "It was not his fault that he lost. Bad breaks, bad officiating, tough luck."

ri Tanrikulu, who nder- 80kg REUTERS

Brave, proud moments for RP

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HOW do you send the Philippine flag waiving proudly in the Olympics without winning the elusive gold medal?

By breaking a leg.

Donald Geisler did not plan it that way.

He trained all his young life. He came here hoping to bring home a medal in one piece.

Needing a win in the repechage of the taekwondo light welterweight class, he leapt high and lashed out with a hefty kick.

But instead of the target, his footpad landed smack on the knee of his foe from Tunisia.

After the thudding, bony clash in midair, Geisler fell like a bundle.

He was caught by the TV eye grimacing, his face a mask of supreme pain.

He had suffered a dislocated left ankle.

***

The condition could normally cripple or paralyze an ordinary person.

Geisler should've stayed down. He should've quit the bout.

He, however, rolled, got up, limped, fumbled, tried again.

Up now on only one good leg, he lurched at his foe.

He was stalled by his broken foot.

He groped, steadied himself, tried to keep fighting again.

Hichem Hamdini, the Tunisian opponent, could not do anything.

He could only stand immobile, completely puzzled as Geisler, crippled and shaking, insisted on fighting.

Geisler, now helpless as a cold, wingless bird, would not give up.

***

In the most heartwarming gesture in taekwondo competition, the Tunisian moved slowly, cupped Geisler's head in his right arm.

He put his head on Geisler's cheek, then guided the crippled RP fighter, very gently, back to his corner.

He tried his best to comfort his broken foe.

Geisler had to be declared loser by RSC (referee stopped contest) with a minute 37 seconds left in the second round with the score standing at 7-all.

Yesterday, Dr. Jose Raul Canlas said he was still at a loss on how Geisler summoned the will and power to continue on a broken leg.

The respected RP delegation physician said that, other than the severe ankle injury, Geisler also dislocated two tendons.

Those who saw Geisler's gritty stand—the fight was beamed all over the world—could not care less if he had lost.

They had all been moved by his boundless courage.

***

Tonette Rivero, 16, fought like a tiger against the 27-year-old Elisavet Mystakidou, the hometown favorite known here as Blonde Storm.

Rivero, visibly a victim of faulty, biased judging, came very close to a medal and showed the gold medal was within reach for RP in taekwondo.

Geisler, however, provided the proudest moment as he gallantly showed the world how far the Filipino would go, what odds he would buck, in a bid to bring honor to the country.

His was a courage that could break human barriers.

Before the accident, he had lost his preliminary bout against Bahri Tanrikulu, the 2000 world champ from Turkey.

He had needed at least three wins in the repechage, the backdoor step-ladder he had to take in a bid to salvage a bronze medal.

Geisler instead ended up on a stretcher.

He next was fitted with a walking boot.

He now moves around on crutches.

Indeed, Geisler was not unlike a bloodied soldier who gallantly held on to his flag, put it upright, despite a fatal wound.

No, it was not a scene out of Iwo Jima.

In fact, Geisler did not get his dream medal here.

But it would be wrong to say he had failed.

Too bad they don't award a medal for pure valor here.

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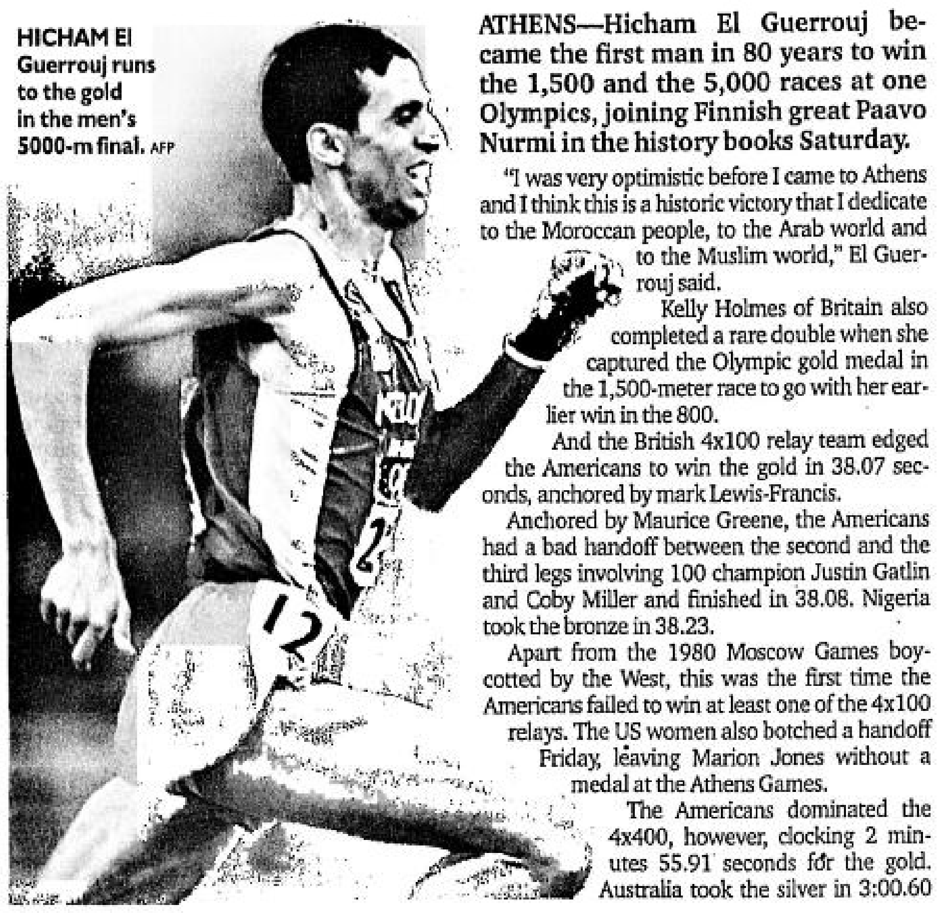
El Guerrouj, Holmes complete rare double



HICHAM El Guerrouj runs to the gold in the men's 5000-m final. AFP

ATHENS—Hicham El Guerrouj became the first man in 80 years to win the 1,500 and the 5,000 races at one Olympics, joining Finnish great Paavo Nurmi in the history books Saturday.

"I was very optimistic before I came to Athens and I think this is a historic victory that I dedicate to the Moroccan people, to the Arab world and to the Muslim world," El Guerrouj said.

Kelly Holmes of Britain also completed a rare double when she captured the Olympic gold medal in the 1,500-meter race to go with her earlier win in the 800.

And the British 4x100 relay team edged the Americans to win the gold in 38.07 seconds, anchored by mark Lewis-Francis.

Anchored by Maurice Greene, the Americans had a bad handoff between the second and the third legs involving 100 champion Justin Gatlin and Coby Miller and finished in 38.08. Nigeria took the bronze in 38.23.

Apart from the 1980 Moscow Games boycotted by the West, this was the first time the Americans failed to win at least one of the 4x100 relays. The US women also botched a handoff Friday, leaving Marion Jones without a medal at the Athens Games.

The Americans dominated the 4x400, however, clocking 2 minutes 55.91 seconds fór the gold. Australia took the silver in 3:00.60 and Nigeria was third in 3:00.90.

In a tactical and slow 5,000 race, El Guerrouj used his speed in the finish to deny Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia a distance double. Bekele had won the 10,000 title and El Guerrouj was the 1,500 winner earlier at the Athens Games.

El Guerrouj, the greatest middle-distance runner who had never won an Olympic gold in two previous games, crossed the line in 13:14.39 after pushing to the front with about 50 meters left.

The Moroccan spread his arms open as he crossed the line. He flashed two fingers, kissed his hands and his right knee, and touched his head to the track in prayer.

"I was afraid that the race would be fast but my strategy worked," El Guerrouj said.

Bekele was trying to become the first man in 24 years to win the 5,000 and 10,000 in an Olympics. Bekele, world record holder in both the 10,000 and 5,000, got the silver in 13:14.59.

World champion Eliud Kirchoge of Kenya was third in 13:15.10.

Nurmi was the only other runner to complete the 1,500-5,000 double. He did it in 1924.

Holmes joined two Russians as the only women who've won both the 800 and 1,500 at the same Olympics. Tatyana Kazankina did it in 1976 and Svetlana Masterkova captured both titles in 1996.

"I just can't believe it. I'm gobsmacked," said Holmes, who ran a British record 3:57.90.

Yuriy Borzakovskiy of Russia upset the favored Africans to win the men's 800 in 1:44.45. AP

Pinoys all agog over billiards

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HOW could one not feel good? Even though the Philippines is just a dot in the world map beset by huge economic and political problems, it is still making a brave show by hosting a three-day international billiards tournament which started yesterday at the Trade Hall of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

"On Cue 3: Continental Conquest" opened before a large Sunday crowd that underscored once more the mass appeal of billiards among the Filipinos. The event also confirmed my two exclusive stories here (PDI, July 23 and Aug. 6) that Puyat Sports and giant television network ABS-CBN, will be joining forces to present a blockbuster tournament starring 16 of the world's leading pool pros led by reigning world pool champion Alex Pagulayan, the Canada-based player, and handpicked hotshots from the United States, Europe and Asia, including the Philippines. Aside from Pagulayan, the star-studded cast includes 1999 world pool champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, last year's No. 1 ranked player Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Vietnam SEA Games gold medalist Warren Kiamco, Davao sensation Lee Van Corteza, 2003 world pool winner Thorsten Hohmann and 1996 world champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, 2001 world pool titlist Mika Immonen of Finland, 2003 World Pool League champion Rodney Morris of the US, and 2004 World Pool semifinalist Marcus Chamat of Sweden. Also seeing action are two-time world champion Chao Fong-pang, 2004 world pool losing finalist Chang Pei-wei, Busan Asian Games gold medal winner Yang Ching-sun and upcoming 15-year-old Wu Chia-ching of Taiwan, Japan's Kunihiko Takahashi, the 1998 world pool champion, and former Japan Open titlist Satoshi Kawabata.

Like basketball and the authentic Filipino sport of cockfighting, billiards is enjoying tremendous following nationwide. It is played not only in Metro Manila but across the nation as well, attracting to its fold players of all shapes, sexes and ages.

Billiards halls have mushroomed all over the country ever since immensely talented Reyes won the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999. Billiards is now big-league stuff. The country's leading television networks are even among its new avid supporters, outdoing each other to grab the public's attention. The ongoing "On Cue 3: Continental Conquest" is being telecast live on Studio 23 under the aegis of ABS-CBN headed by Gabby Lopez in partnership with Puyat Sports of Putch and Popit Puyat, billiards' long-time benefactors. Most recently, Solar Sports presented on cable TV and RPN 9 the "RP-Taiwan 9-Ball Challenge" which the Filipinos easily won before a small group of sports fans who braved the uncooperative weather.

Last year, ABS-CBN and Puyat Sports jointly organized the well-attended "On Cue 1 and 2: Battle of Champions" won by Immonen and Johnny Archer, the two-time world pool titlist (1992 and 1997) from the US. However, Archer is skipping this year's "On Cue" tournament due to an urgent commitment.

In the Philippines, billiards is enjoying a boom thanks largely to the extraordinary exploits of Reyes and Bustamante, who gave the sport respect and recognition by winning one major international event after another. And with its universal appeal, it is not farfetched to say that billiards could very well be included in future Olympic Games where the next generation of Filipino athletes might yet win that elusive Olympic gold.

Filipinos are incurable billiards aficionados. Every billiards event here is a sellout unlike in other countries. Local fans will always watch a billiards match even though the protagonists are not Filipinos. Over the years, the Philippines has hosted several successful international billiards tournaments featuring world-class players such as five-time world champion Earl Strickland, US Open winner Corey Duel, Souquet, Hohmann, Immonen and Archer. Some years back, American legends Nick Varner, Mike Lebron and Kim Davenport, to name a few, also came here and showed their stuff before Filipino pool buffs.

***

BILLIARDS ON FOX TV. The worldwide popularity of billiards rises further when Fox Sports Net, the United States' widest-reaching sports network, broadcasts one-hour highlights of the 2004 World Pool Championship on the last four Sundays of October. Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan won that prestigious championship.

Matchroom Sport, promoters of the annual WPC which was held last month in Taipei, said Fox Sports Net's forthcoming broadcast represents the most extensive coverage of billiards yet in the US. The championship will be aired on Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31, all Sundays, according to Matchroom Sports chair Barry Hearn.

Athens electrified by US pool stars

ATHENS—One world record, four Olympic records, six gold medals, eight medals overall—American Michael Phelps did it all in the Athens Olympic pool.

Well, he missed out on one thing: a seventh gold medal that would have equalled Mark Spitz's monumental Olympic haul and earned the 19-year-old from Baltimore a $1-million sponsor's bonus.

But in the end, the seventh gold wasn't even missed as Phelps established himself among swimming's elite—also on view in Athens in the form of Australians Ian Thorpe and Grant Hackett and the Netherlands' Pieter van den Hoogenband.

Their successes not only electrified Athens, they offered a tantalizing view of what could be in store in Beijing in four years' time.

Phelps, 19, swam 17 times in seven days. Spitz, who swam semi-finals only in his 100m events, swam—and won—13 races in Munich.

The difficulty of the task Phelps set himself was underscored on the sixth day of competition, when his evening session included a victory in the 200m individual medley in an Olympic record time, with the victory ceremony quickly followed by the semi-finals in the 100m butterfly—in which he posted another Olympic record.

"I can't even make you understand how hard that is," his coach Bob Bowman said.

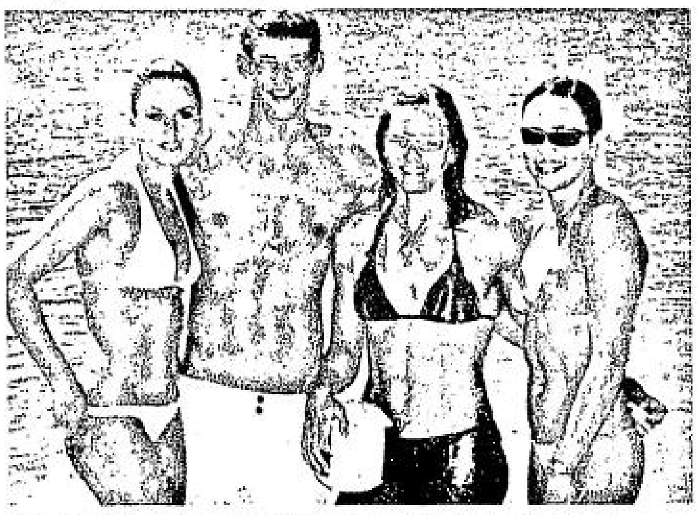
Phelps figured in most of the indelible moments of the 2004 swimming competition, but he was overshadowed in the final of the 200m freestyle, an event that Thorpe has made his own.

The Australian freestyle great avenged his defeat by van den Hoogenband in Sydney four years earlier, relentlessly overhauling the Dutch swimmer on the final lap to claim the prize.

Thorpe also successfully defending his 400m free title—his haul of two gold one silver and one bronze assuring his place in the Australian sporting pantheon as the most successful Olympian in the country.

Van den Hoogenband salved his pride with a victory in the 100m free, retaining the title he won in Sydney.

Thorpe, undaunted by his third-place finish in the 100m free, said he would focus more on the sprint in the build-up to Beijing.



AMONG those who captivated swimming fans were, from left, Amanda Beard, Michael Phelps, Jenny Thompson and Natalie Coughlin, who enjoy a bright Athens day in the beach. AP

The United States and Australia certainly lived up to their reputations as swimming's superpowers, but they didn't have things all their own way.

Kosuke Kitajima's breaststroke double paced Japan to their best Olympic swimming performance in decades—three gold medals, one silver and four bronze that put them third in the table.AFP

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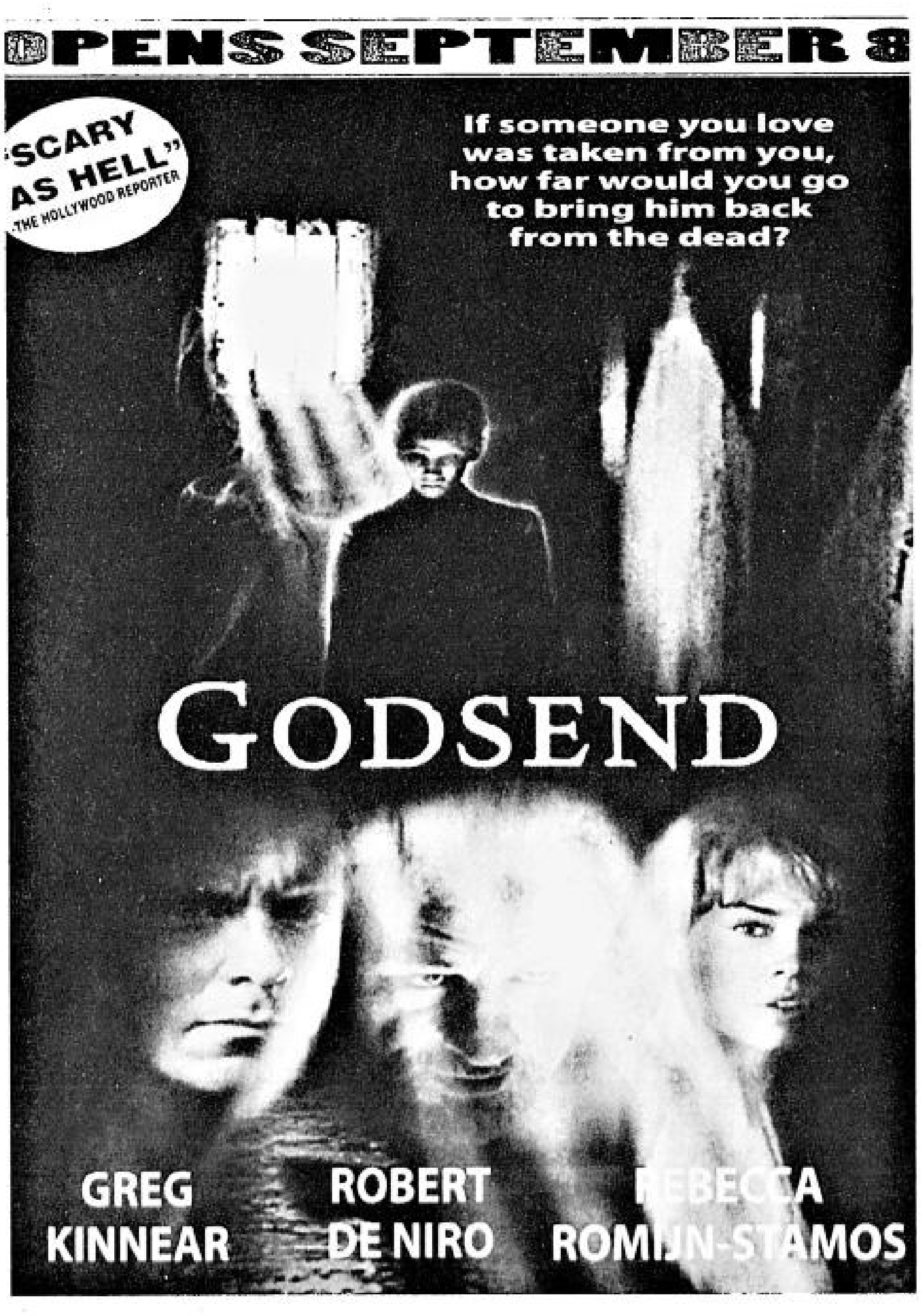
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Hawks pick up 64th win in a row

DEFENDING champion University of Manila continued its record-breaking spree in collegiate basketball, humbling AMA Computer University, 72-59, for its 11th straight win—and 64th overall—in the fourth National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the UM gym.

The Hawks' dynamic duo of Jovit Gomez and Ryan Regalado proved unstoppable during long scoring splurges in the third and fourth periods that enabled the Sampaloc-based team of coach Loreto Tolentino and lawyer-manager Ernesto de los Santos to extend its winning streak and move within five games of completing a rare sweep of the nine-team, double-round tournament.

The win was the 64th straight for UM since the league's inception four years ago.

Untitled RP chesser clinches GM norm

Final Standings: 7.5 points—GM Miladinovic (Greece), GM Cebalo (Croatia); **7.0**—GM Dervishi (Albania), GM Godena (Italy); **6.5**—GM Khenkin (Germany), R. Salvador (RP), GM Sedina (Colombia), GM Drazic (Yugoslavia), IM Vezzosi (Italy); **6.0**—IM Rañola (RP), IM Sanchez (RP), IM Bancod (RP); **5.5**—NM Martinez (RP)

UNTITLED Filipino woodpusher Roland Salvador shot down Grandmaster Andrei Maksimenko in the ninth and final round Saturday night (Manila time) to earn his first GM norm in the Bratto Chess Festival in Bratto, Italy.

SALVADOR: 4th

Salvador's stunning upset of the seventh-seeded Ukrainian vaulted him into a tie for fourth to 9th places with 6.5 points in the tournament dominated by GMs and won by Greek GM Igor Miladinovic.

And it capped a rousing performance by the Filipinos as National Master Rolly Martinez also gained his first IM norm and newly installed IM Yves Rañola justified his new rank with a norm-clinching finish as well.

Martinez, who took the scalp of Dutch GM Harmen Jonkman in the eighth round, had the luxury of losing his final-round match to German IM Lorenz Drabke and still clinched the norm.

Rañola whipped Italian Fide Master Massimiliano Lucaroni in a Dutch Duel.

Rañola wound up in a tie for 10th and 12th places with compatriot IMs Joseph Sanchez and Ronald Bancod while Martinez finished half a point behind in a tie for 13th place.

The 22-year-old Salvador, an enlisted member of the Philippine Navy, secured the IM norm with still a round left via a fighting draw with four-time tournament winner GM Vladimir Epishin (ELO 2635) of Russia.

"*Ayon sa* organizer, *mamimili ako kung* IM *o* GM norm *ang kukunin ko. Siyempre,* GM norm *ang pinili ko* (I was asked to choose which norm would I settle for. I chose the GM norm," said Salvador, who hails from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

According to World Chess Federation (Fide) rules, 5.5 points are needed to clinch an IM norm and 6.5 points for GM norm in a nine-round Swiss system event.

Salvador finished in a tie with GMs Michele Godena of Italy, GM Igor Khenkin of Germany, GM Elena Sedina of Colombia, GM Sinisa Drazic of Yugoslavia and IM Paolo Vezzosi of Italy. *'Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Favorites rule Milo Naga elims

NAGA CITY—Alvin Canada lived up to his lofty billing yesterday when he topped the Bicol elimination race of the 28th National Milo Marathon that started and ended at Plaza Quezon Freedom Park here.

Canada broke away from his four main rivals in the last eight kilometers then sustained his pace to clinch his second victory in the 21-km race in one hour, 17 minutes and two seconds.

The 23-year-old from Basud, Camarines Norte, who won this race in 2002, finished some 50 meters ahead of Neri Barcelo (1:17:12), with Ernie Payong (1:17:12) placing third.

Luisa Raterta completed the show of favorites by retaining her women's crown in 1:52.34.

Joanne Manangat checked in second in 1:53.48 while Joy Pardenas was third in 2:15.09.

Canada and Raterta pocketed the first-prize money of P10,000 and gained the right to represent Bicol region along with the second and third placers in the grand finals to be held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Globe Handyphone, and the Department of Tourism on Nov. 14 in Manila.

"I trained for three months for this," said Canada.

Sostenes Ballester, younger brother of former marathon champions Wilfredo and Allan, was a poor fourth in 1:19.35.

Mayor Jessie Robredo fired the starting gun in the presence of Naga City Sports Commission chair Pedro Lee and PSC Commissioner Ambrosio de Luna.

Ramil Benosa bagged the men's 5-K title in 18:15, beating second placer Saudimar Diaz, who clocked 18:28. Antonio Nulial placed third in 18:33.

Vanessa Baliquia topped the women's side in 24:33, with Mary Jone Nacario second (25:44) and Marissa Payong third (26:32).

Jonnel Payong won the male 6-9 age division in the 3K. Juvelyn Enalido won the distaff side.

BICOL'S BEST: Alvin Canada (third from left) and Luisa Raterta hoist their trophies after topping yesterday's Milo Marathon elimination race in Naga City. With them are (from left) Milo Marathon national organizer Rudy Biscocho, Milo Sports executive Pat Goc Ong and Nestlé Naga City sales supervisor Nelson Paz.

NCR lady booters shock Cebuanas

ELIZA Benitez scored twice in the first half as the National Capital Region opened its bid for back-to-back titles with a 4-0 rout of Cebu at the kickoff yesterday of the PFF-Super Ferry National Women's Football Championship at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City.

Benitez mocked the porous defense of the Cebuanas, one of the Visayan "Big Four" teams in the tournament, to boot in goals in the 35th and 37th minutes.

Patty Silva opened scoring in the 33rd minute and Monica Santos sealed the rout in the 65th for the NCR women in the opener of the weeklong event co-organized by the Philippine Football Federation and Marikina City Football Association, and backed by Mayor Marides C. Fernando, also the MCFA chair.

The NCR won the under-19 girls last Sunday in Davao.

In other matches, Davao crushed Iligan, 6-1, and Iloilo blanked Negros Occidental, 2-0, on Sigrid Anne Pilla's two goals.

Baguio played Negros Oriental last night in the tournament for women 19 years and older.

Mayor Fernando, Rep. Del de Guzman and Councilor Wilfred Reyes headed city officials who attended the opening ceremonies of the event also supported by adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez, Zamboanga Football Association president Teng Torres and the RP women's team were part of the gallery of about 3,000.

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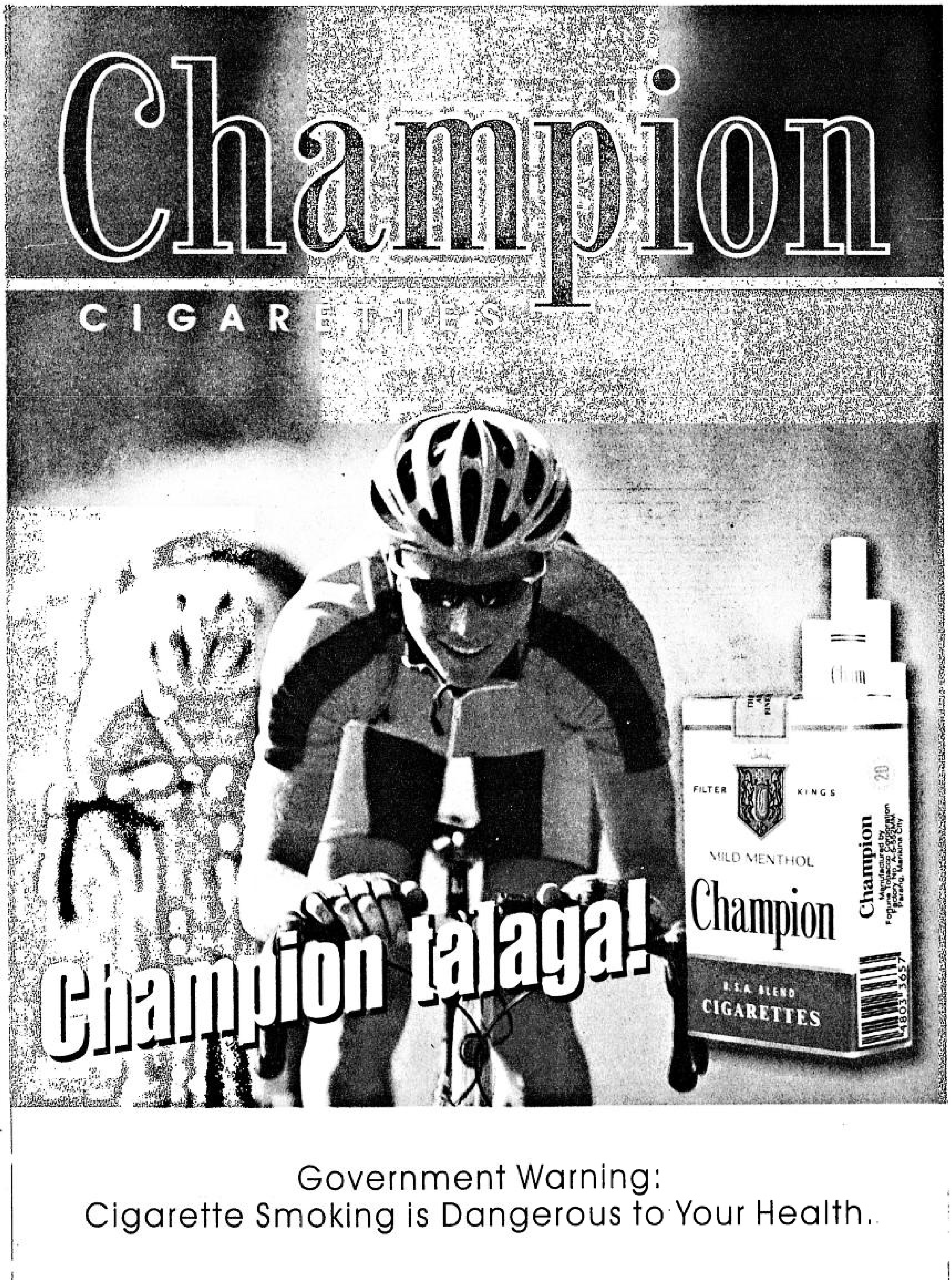

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OPBF wants Mayol-Gejon title clash

ORIENTAL and Pacific Boxing Federation president Frank Quill yesterday ordered OPBF minimumweight champion Rodel Mayol to defend his title soon against mandatory challenger Elmer Gejon.

Mayol was slated to face a Thai banger in the last week of September in Manila, but with the OPBF's latest order, promoters will have to immediately make necessary adjustments.

There's another hitch as Gejon, the Philippine mini flyweight champion, is not keen on meeting Mayol since both fighters are bosom buddies. If he passes up the chance to face Mayol, a Thai fighter could replace Gejon.

Out of courtesy, Mayol's handlers have already offered Gejon's manager, Rex "Wakee" Salud, the chance to fight for the OPBF title. However, the offer will most likely be turned down considering both fighters' respect for each other. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Top UAAP runners dominate Beam 5K

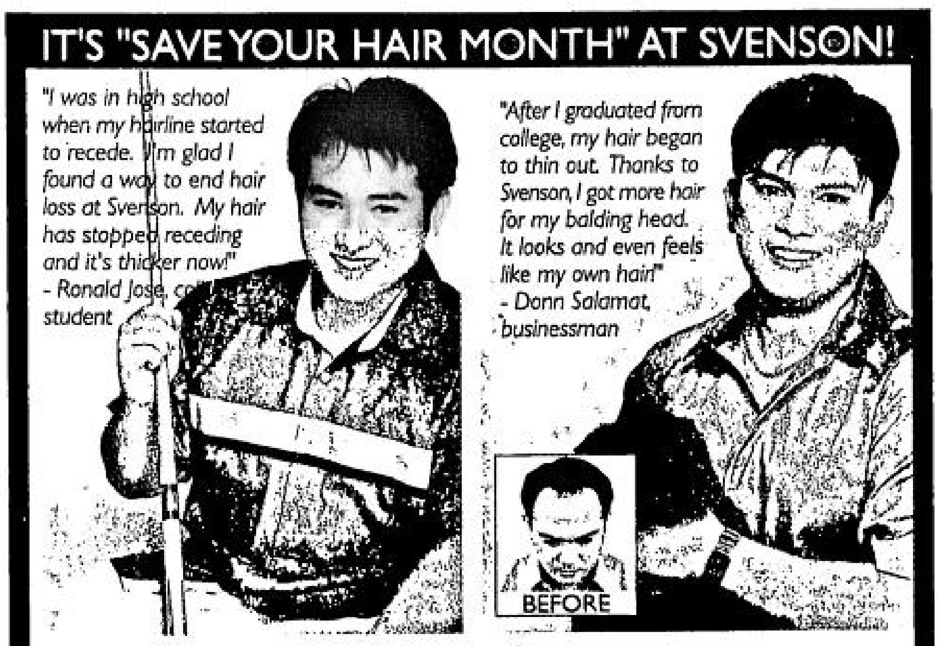
FAR Eastern University's Ronald Servidad and Liza Yambao of the University of Santo Tomas reasserted their supremacy to rule the Manila leg of the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy yesterday.

Servidad covered the 5-km race along Roxas Boulevard in 15 minutes and 23 seconds, three seconds in front of Crisenciano Sabal of the Philippine Army, to take his third Manila leg crown. Mapua's Marjon Salanawon (15:39) placed third in the race organized by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions and backed by the Fire Emergency Paramedic Assistance Group, among others.

Shella Ninobla, also of FEU, wound up second to Yambao, who also topped the Manila leg last October. Yambao clocked 19:08 this time.

Sealand Agana finished third.

The top 10 placers for both the men's and women's divisions earned medals and cash prizes from Beam Toothpaste and Zest-O Juice Drinks.



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FOUNDERS' CUP

Cover Girl frolics in King's absence

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

WHEN Empire King is away, Cover Girl will play.

That's exactly what happened yesterday as Cover Girl handily beat her rivals in the 2004 Founders' Cup race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

"*Parang walang kalaban* (As if she ran without an opponent)," said winning rider Jonathan Hernandez moments after Cover Girl stormed to a seven-length triumph in the 1,750-meter race.

A daunting run at the far turn was all the Khozaam-Gallant Native filly needed to dispose off her rivals, who all looked like second class in the absence of Empire King.

Cover Girl, the Cojuangco Cup winner who lost to Empire King in the Ongpin Cup of the recent Triple Crown series, bagged P600,000 for C&H Enterprises.

Taking the battle for second in the Philracom-sponsored race, held in honor of Senate President Franklin Drilon, was the Trillana Stable's Shadowfax, who glideed along the rail to pip Stallone and Vindicated.

COVER Girl en route to victory under jockey E F Salvador in the last Cojuangco Cup. She won again yesterday with Jonathan Hernandez on top in the Founders' Cup. JESS YUSON

Moab placed fifth, while I Love This Game came in sixth and last.

"*Siguro mas mabigat ang laban kung nandun si* Empire King (It could have been a tighter race if Empire King were around)," added Hernandez, referring to the Lee Stable colt who was pulled out for being off-fed.

Cover Girl, who also placed fourth in the Horseman's Cup but bounced back to rule the Lakambini Stakes a week ago, covered the seldom-used distance in 1:51.5 (11-23.5-24.5-24-28.5).

Stallone and Moab were fiercely locked in a duel for first when Hernandez set loose Cover Girl, who passed both frontrunners without a fuss.

Shadowfax (Val Dilema) got P225,000, Stallone (Eldy Salvador) P125,000 and Vindicated P50,000.

SPORTSWATCH

Del Monte 202 Cup badminton listing on

COLLEGIATE and university students between 16-25 years old who wish to join the Del Monte 202 Cup: The First Philippine Collegiate Badminton Open may register until Aug. 31. The final list of players will be out on Sept. 2. Participants will be notified by phone or they may also check the list at http://philbadminton.com/Page_44x.html. There will be a players' meeting on Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. at the SM Megatrade Auditorium, SM Megamall. Competitions start on Sept. 11 at The Zone, Malugay, Makati.For inquiries, call 840-444 / 247-0757.

Metro's top cockers vie in Roligon derby

METRO Manila's top cockers converge at Roligon Mega Cockpit at 5 p.m. today as the derby of partners Abraham Bernales, Mody Almendares and Tiling Capitan unfolds at 5 p.m. with no less than 70 matches on tap. Mauro Prieto of Palawan leads the cast in the event sponsored by Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate and Bexan-XP and Enertone. Bonus prizes, in addition to the guaranteed prize, also await the champion that will register the fastest win.

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ABS-CBN asks Ai Ai to leave ABC show

Exclusivity clause invoked

By Marinel R. Cruz

AI AI de las Alas is leaving her hosting job on "Sing-Galing," a singing contest on ABC 5, because her "exclusive contract" with ABS-CBN no longer allows it, according to the comedian-TV host herself.

Ai Ai said she became "very depressed" when she heard the news from her ABS-CBN bosses.

"'Sing-Galing' helped me raise my family for six years," she said. "I've been doing 'Sing-Galing' even when I was still with GMA 7. I really love the show. Gratitude was the reason I never left it.

"But everybody knows that I'm an exclusive talent of ABS now, so I have to let go of it," she added.

ABC 5 vice president for entertainment Terra Daffon said the network received a notice from ABS-CBN six months ago. The notice informed ABC 5 that "(ABS-CBN) is invoking the exclusivity clause in Ai Ai's talent contract."

"They are no longer allowing Ai Ai to host it ('Sing-Galing')," Daffon explained. "But they were kind enough to give us a six-month extension. The extension expires this August."

Ai Ai's last taping day for "Sing-Galing" is Sept. 15, according to the comedian.

Ai Ai's co-host, John Lapus, will be retained, said Daffon.

Ai Ai is also one of the hosts of ABS-CBN's noontime variety show, "MTB: Ang Saya Saya," and is the lead character in the weekly sitcom "Ang Tanging Ina: The TV Series," on the same network.

She has also starred in films like "Ang Tanging Ina" and "Volta," both produced by Star Cinema, an affiliate of ABS-CBN.

SAD FUNNY LADY. "I'll probably cry on my last taping day" on "Sing-Galing," says Ai Ai.

"Hindi na nila ako pinayagan," said Ai Ai of her ABS-CBN bosses. "But ABC 5 said I could always come back. There is no bad blood between the network and me."

She said she is confident ABS-CBN will give her "extra work" to make up for her losing the show on ABC 5.

"'Sing-Galing' also meant added income for me," she said. "I've been part of the show for so long, I was already earning a big pay."

Ai Ai's original partner in "Sing-Galing" was Allan K, who left to host its rival show on GMA 7, "K! The 1-Million-Peso Videoke Challenge," with singer Jaya Ramsey. "K!" host Arnel Ignacio in turn moved to Channel 2 to co-host "MTB" with Ai Ai.

"What I liked about hosting 'Sing-Galing' is that my work there was very light," Ai Ai explained. "I would start my taping at 4 p.m. and finish at 8 p.m. And that's for two episodes."

Daffon said ABC 5 is still looking for a host to replace Ai Ai. There is already a short-list of possible replacements, she said. "But the show's new format will dictate the kind of host we will have," she said. "He or she should sing well and should be funny, just like Ai Ai."

Daffon said ABC 5 is still working on the show's new concept.

"It will be more exciting," she said. "There'll be innovations. We'll be adding a reality-TV element to it."

"I'll probably cry on my last taping day," said Ai Ai. "I learned a lot from the show. I also met a lot of interesting people because of it. I hope the viewers will continue supporting the show. I hope they will give the new host a chance to prove his or her worth."

TV people talk back

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OF LATE, our TV people have been criticized by many sectors, not just for shlocky and irresponsible work on the tube, but for many of society's ills. They have been taking it on the chin for a long time, but now is their time to talk back:

"Yes, we produce some bad programs that exploit sex, gossip, controversy and other negative elements. But it's terribly unfair to blame *everything*, like our youth's problems, on us!

"TV is only one aspect of the problem, so why hit on us *all* the time, as though we were the sole villains in this sordid national melodrama?

"Please remember that, before television ever came to be, there was the family, the church, the school, the government. All of these sectors are prime molders of young people's character and psyche—so why aren't *they* being blamed for the mess that our young people are now in?

"People criticize us for trying *daw* to escape our responsibilities by placing 'Parental Guidance' warnings on many of our shows. But those warnings aren't just there as window dressing, they are there to *remind* parents of their responsibility to supervise *their* children's TV viewing habits!

"Parents counter that they can't do that because they're working, which is why their kids are left alone, or watch TV in the company of household help, who don't supervise them adequately or intelligently.

"Well, is that *our* fault? Why should the country's bad economic situation, which requires even wives and mothers to work outside the home, be dumped on *us*? Have a heart, *naman*.

"TV isn't the solution to all of our ills, nor is it their creator. If our young people are dumb, why not blame the schools? If they're lacking in moral values, blame the church! And if they don't have a sense of nationhood and of working together for the common good, blame our leaders in government, for not setting a good example!

"And please remember that, in the Philippines, we have a commercial or 'free' TV system. We don't have the BBC system in England, where people pay fees to view the educational and cultural programs that they prefer.

"In this country, our free TV system dictates that programs should be popular enough to attract mass viewership, which in turn generates the advertising support that finances the entire system.

"It's therefore terribly unfair for people to demand that local TV be altruistic and serve niche audiences' special needs, because this doesn't generate the mass viewership needed for the system to profitably function.

"We TV people shouldn't be expected to be teachers—we're entertainers! If you want good teaching, demand it of our schools.

"So, if you want to play the Blame Game, play it fairly and squarely, with *all* of the sectors involved getting the rap, and the bad rep. Loud and clear?"

Anti-Piracy movie trailer

LAST Aug. 12, the Motion Picture Association launched a new anti-piracy movie trailer. The trailer is aimed at raising public awareness about copyright law, and delivering a simple message: "Movie Piracy. It's a crime."

The trailer was produced as a first step in a local grassroots educational effort, to encourage cooperation between the Filipino film community and government to make moviegoers aware of the laws protecting copyright, and to encourage the public to reject pirated movies found on DVDs or online.

'Black Hole High'

CORRINE experiences the worst day of her life, and she discovers to her dismay that she has to relive the exact same day, over and over. Corrine is trapped in time, and it's Thursday everyday!

Watch "Black Hole High" every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. on Channel 2, and find out if Corrine will ever see the light of Friday again. The show is the latest addition to ABS-CBN's E-Media programs, which air every Saturday from 9:30 to 10 a.m., right after "Art Jam."

'The Amazing Race'

THE FIFTH season of "The Amazing Race" has its exclusive live satellite telecast every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. on Studio 23, with an encore at 6 p.m. The show's regular prime

TV PEOPLE/ A36

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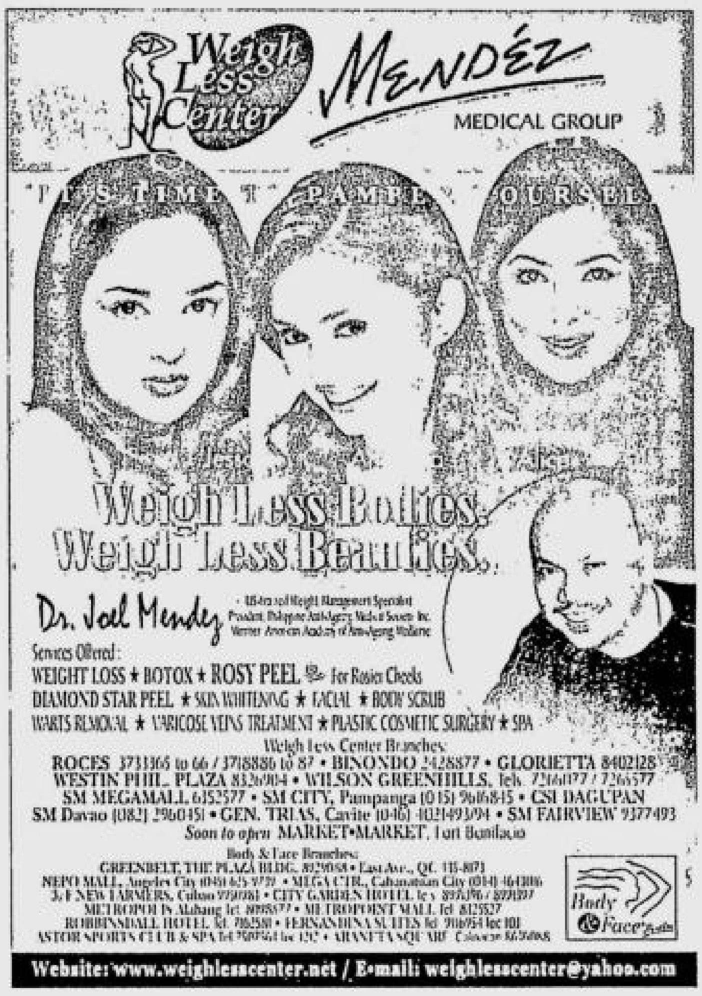
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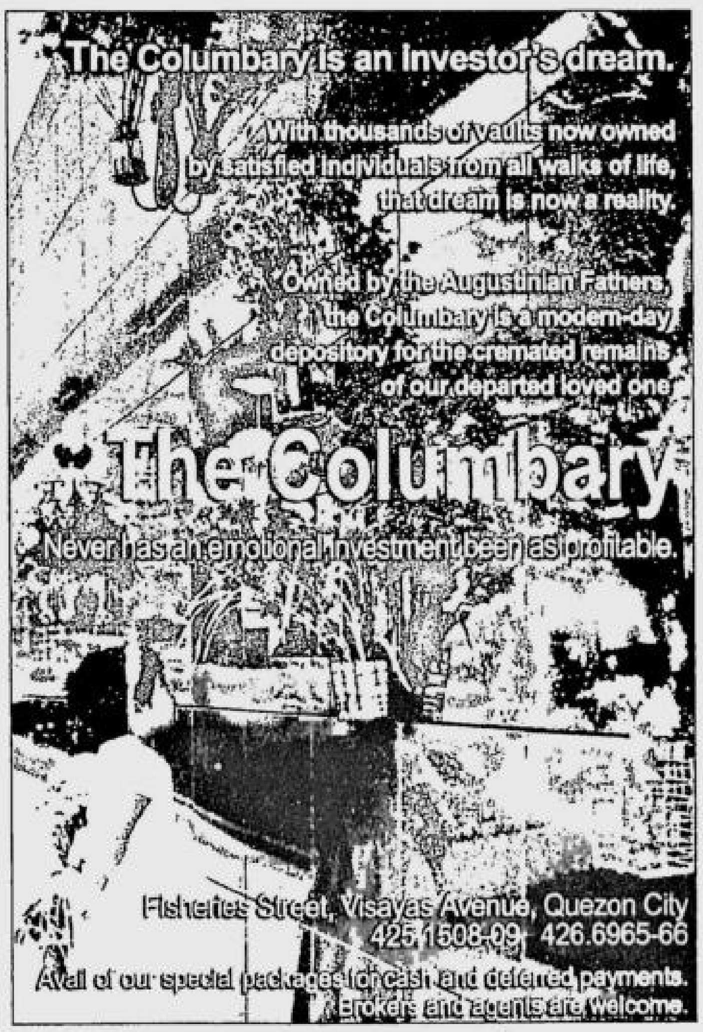
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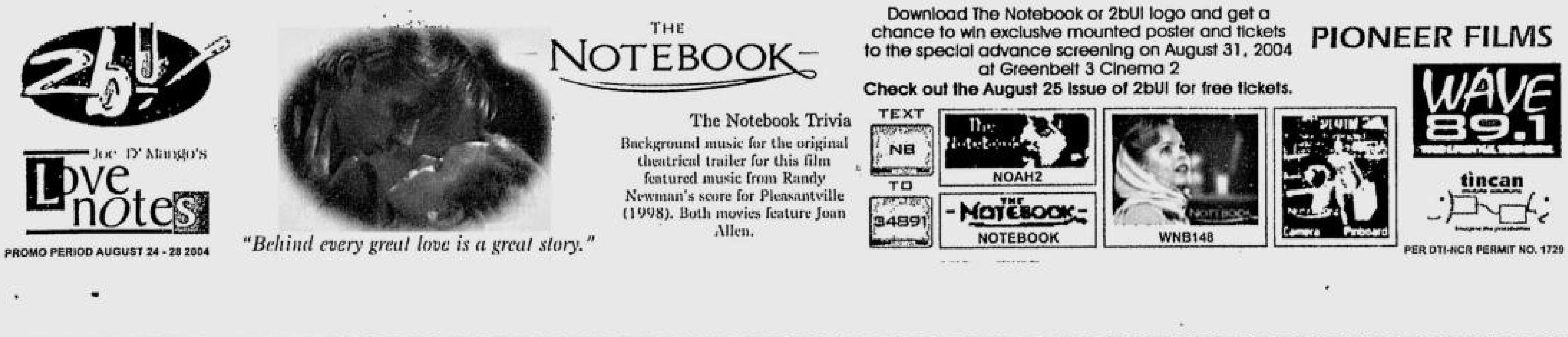
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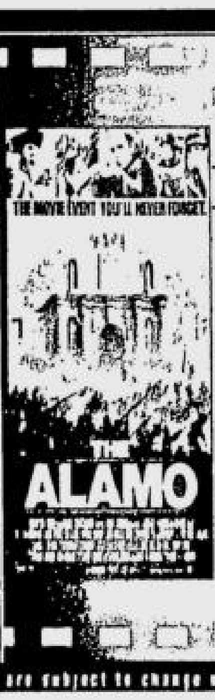
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Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans men of all races who believed in the future of Texas held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young brash Col. William Travis, the violent, passionate James Bowie, and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

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SM City Pampanga
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules Dial 633 0266

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MTRCB RATING PG-13 CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR ADULT
OPENS SEPT. 1
When you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.
david duchovny
nia vardalos
toni collette
GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE GIRLS
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www.connieandcarla.com
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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS: 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF: 9:50 pm

2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF: 8:30 pm

3 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY

4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS: 11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF: 8:55 pm

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF: 9:00 pm

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. DODGEBALL
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) DODGEBALL
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATO

St★rmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
5. PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS st★r
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 DODGEBALL
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

St★rmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2 MAY PAG-IBIG PA

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) DODGEBALL
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 (PMS) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 (PMS) BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 (PMS) THUNDERBIRDS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
tel 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKETMALL
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 DODGEBALL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS ES) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 DODGEBALL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029
1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHEREE

Sheree at Music Museum

SHEREE, who first caught public attention as a Viva Hot Babe because of her striking resemblance to actress Vivian Velez, is bent on becoming a serious singer.

Her manager Jessica Rodriguez is helping Sheree fulfill her musical ambition. Sheree will be facing her first test as a singer when she performs in her first solo show, "My Sheree Amour," on Sept. 4 at the Music Museum.

"My Sheree Amour," presented by Urbanite Group and Leisure Co., will have R&B singer Luke Mejares as Sheree's special guest.

Also a guest in Sheree's concert are the sexy Myles Hernandez, Asia Agcaoili and Patricia Javier, Sheree's mentor and discoverer.

The Climax Band will also be featured in the show.

Patrician discovered Sheree in Cagayan de Oro when the former performed in a show there. Sheree agreed to go with Patricia to Manila to pursue her dreams of becoming a singer.

'Huling Birhen' in foreign film fests

"ANG HULING Birhen Sa Lupa" is riding high in international film festivals more than a year after its release.

Known as "The Last Virgin" in other countries, the movie was shown on June 17 and 19 at 25th Durban International Film Festival in Durban, South Africa, where it was hailed as "an incisive portrayal of the consequences of the confluence of religion, politics and poverty."

"The Last Virgin" will be shown at the UMEA International Film Festival, which will be held in Sweden Sept. 16-22, and at the Filmfest Hamburg in Germany, Sept. 23-30.

Written by Rachel Villavicencio, "Birhen" stars Jay Manalo, Maui Taylor, Elizabeth Oropesa and Ara Mina, who won her first best actress award for her portrayal of the island whore, Lorena. It was also named Best Picture at the Manila Film Festival in 2003, and Joel Lamangan was Best Director.

"The Last Virgin" is now available on VCD and DVD from Viva Video.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 Dolby PRINCESS DIARIES 2
10:55 am 1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm

4 SDDS ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 dts THUNDERBIRDS
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

6 Dolby LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

7 Dolby NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

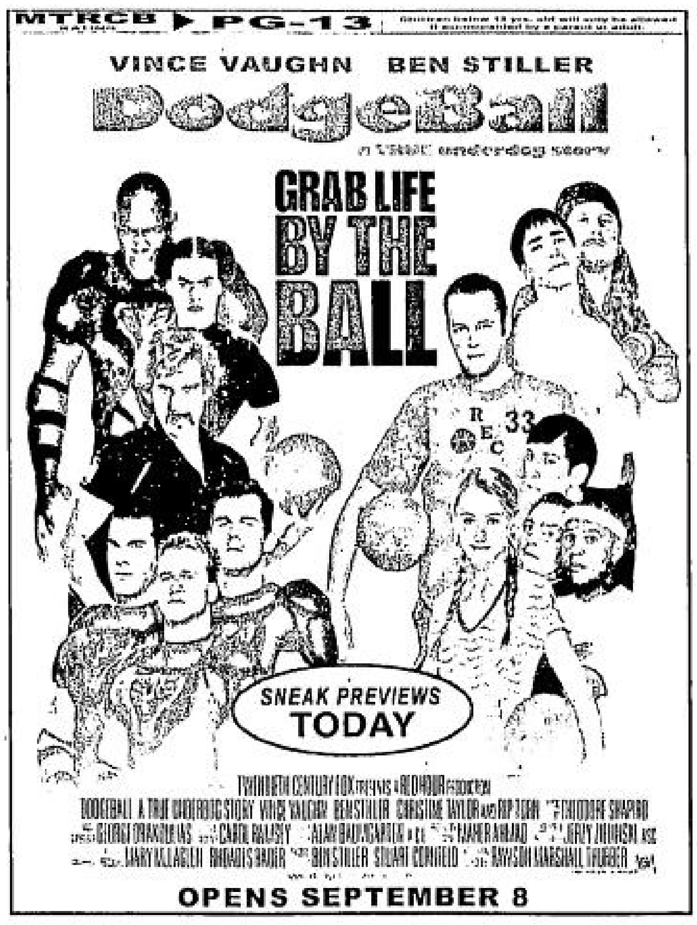
Sep 11	ATENEO vs F E U
Sep 12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP SEMIFINAL GAMES
Sep 23	UAAP GAME - FINALS
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer



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OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	PRINCESS DIARIES - 2	10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 2	DODGEBALL	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	11:45, 2:20, 4:55 7:30, 10:20	PG 13
2	STEPFORD WIVES	12:00, 2:10, 4:20 6:30, 8:40, 10:40	GP
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:20	PG 13
4	DODGE BALL	11:50, 2:00, 4:10 6:20, 8:30, 10:40	GP

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

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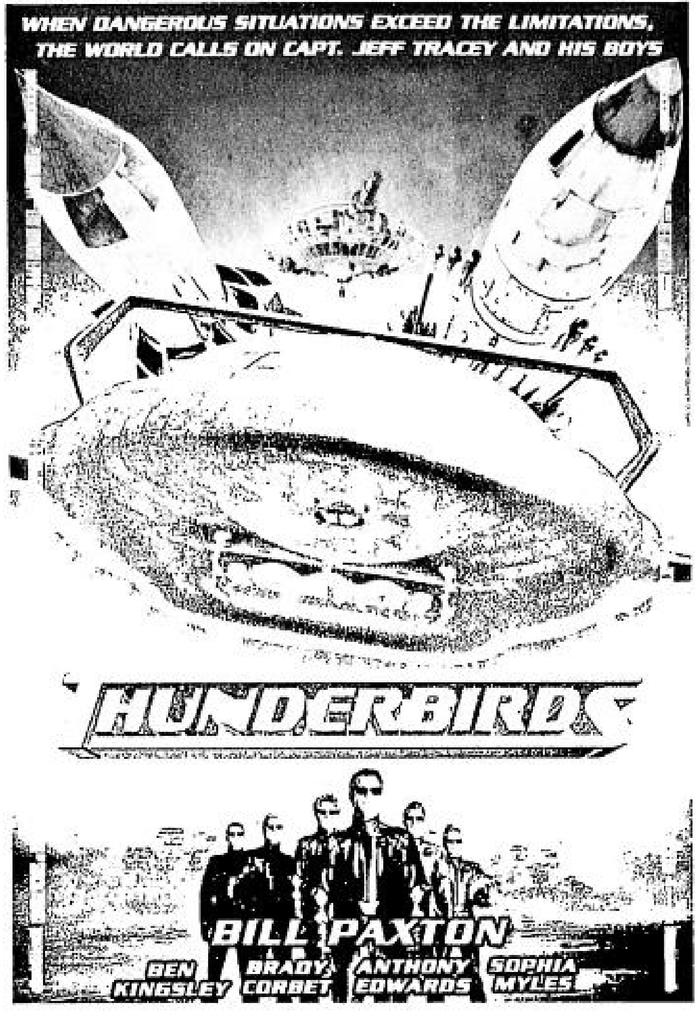

WHEN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS EXCEED THE LIMITATIONS, THE WORLD CALLS ON CAPT. JEFF TRACEY AND HIS BOYS

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BILL PAXTON
BEN KINGSLEY BRADY CORBET ANTHONY EDWARDS SOPHIA MYLES

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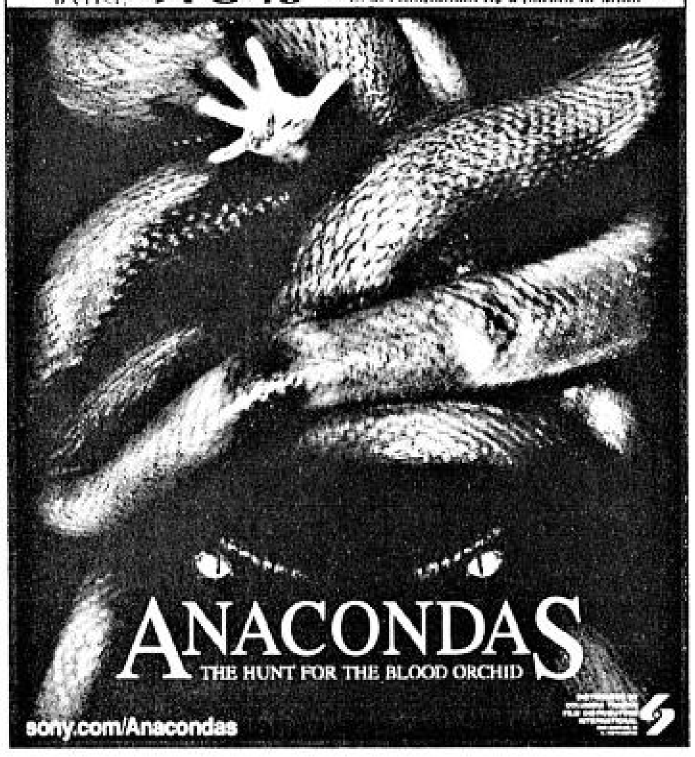
ANACONDAS ATTACK SEPT. 1

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13



ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STEPFORD WIVES PG13 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	DODGEBALL PG-13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10
LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	THUNDERBIRDS GP 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	ALIEN VS PREDATOR PG13 12:10, 2:35

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ALIEN VS. PREDATOR (PG-13)
FS 12:50 PM, 3:05 PM, 5:20 PM, 7:35 PM, LMF 9:50 PM

② PRINCESS DIARIES (GP)
FS 12:00 PM, 2:50 PM, 5:40 PM, LMF 8:30 PM

③ DODGEBALL (PG - 13)

④ THE STEPFORD WIVES (PG-13)
FS 11:55 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:25 PM, 6:40 PM, LMF 8:55 PM

PREMIERE THEATRE
PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (GP)
FS 12:30 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:10 PM, 9:00 PM

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7861 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	[illegible]

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAMOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR, STEPFORD WIVES, CINDERELLA STORY, THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	VILLAGE
CINEMA-7	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-14	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

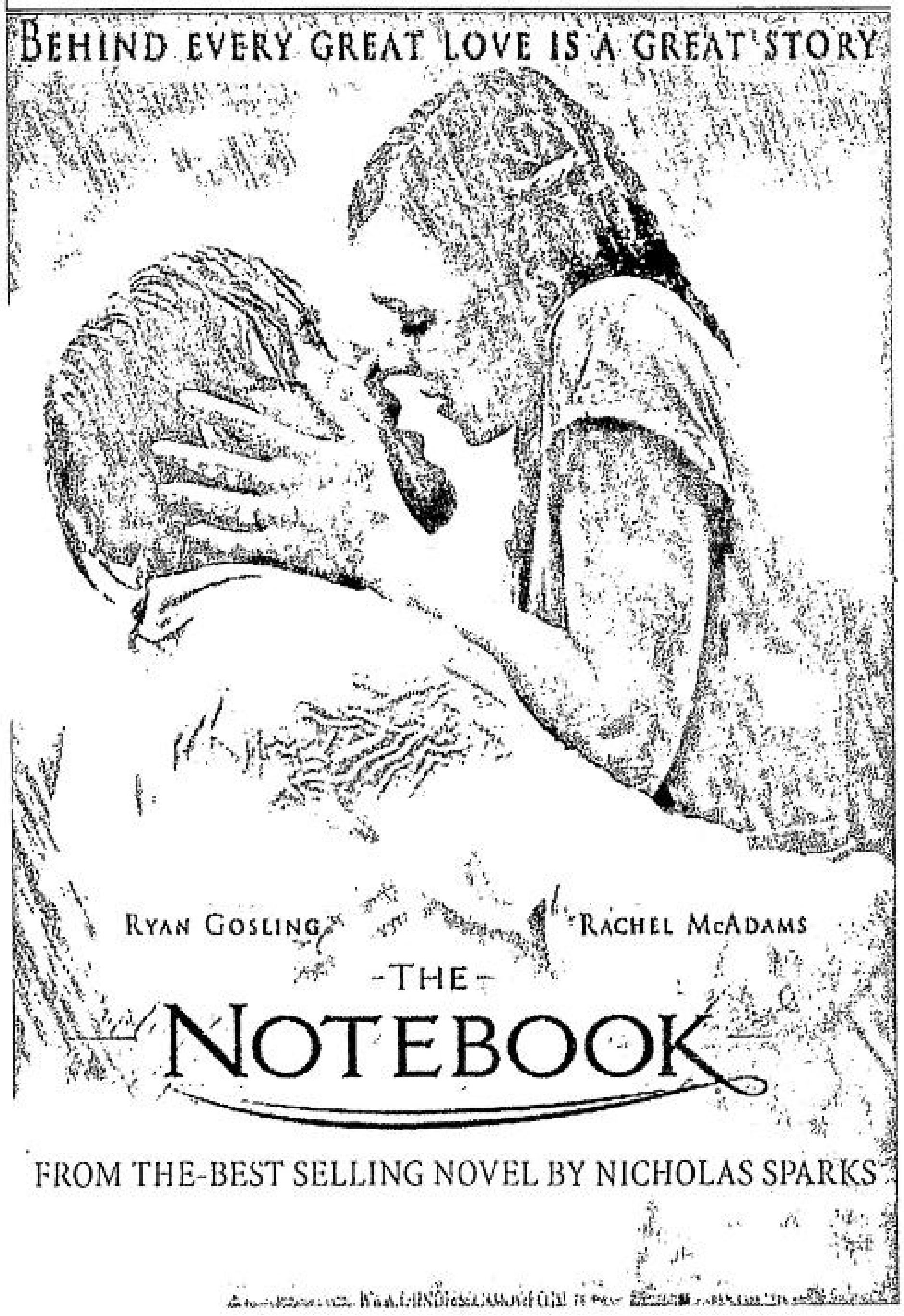
(LAS PIÑAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	[illegible]
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

OPENS SEPTEMBER 1



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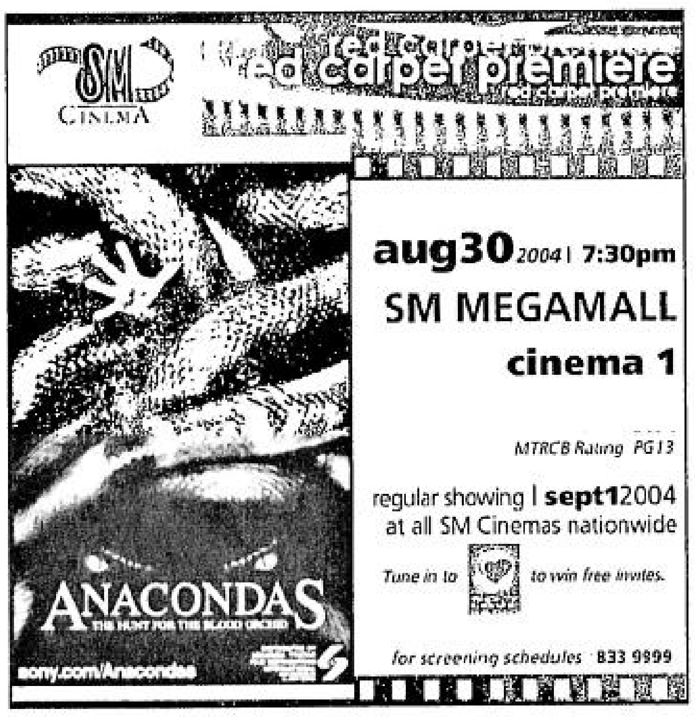

SM CINEMA

red carpet premiere

ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas

aug30 2004 | 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL
cinema 1

MTRCB Rating PG13

regular showing | **sept1**2004
at all SM Cinemas nationwide

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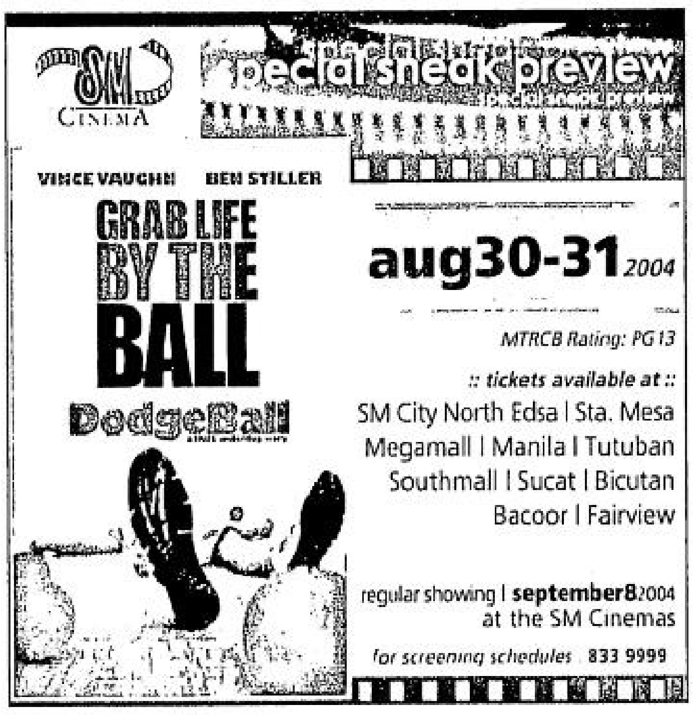

SM CINEMA

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aug30-31 2004

MTRCB Rating: PG13

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GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 JANDARA 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 THUNDERBIRDS 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 A CINDERELLA STORY
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
9 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
10 THE VILLAGE 12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
7 THUNDERBIRDS 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20 10:00

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6;50, 9:00
2 THUNDERBIRDS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
4 THE VILLAGE 10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9.00
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:45, 10:30
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 9.00
8 HAMOG 10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

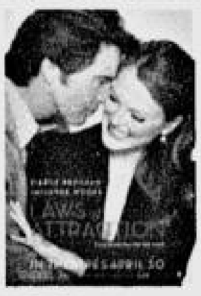
935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
3 THUNDERBIRDS 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30
7 HAMOG 10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
8 THE VILLAGE 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 HAMOG	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 ETRNAL SUNSHINE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 HAMOG	3 MANO-MANO 3
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
		5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 GARFIELD	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 MAKAMUNDO
3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 MAKAMUNDO	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5856	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 THE VILLAGE
2 HAMOG	2 GARFIELD	2 GARFIELD
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	3 THE VILLAGE	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 DEAD PEOPLE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	6 MAKAMUNDO	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2



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1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12 35, 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 12 50, 3 15, 5 40, 8 05, 10 30	2 THE VILLAGE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION [illegible] 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 40, 4 05, 6 30, 8 55, 11 20	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 THUNDERBIRDS	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	4 DIRTY DANCING 2
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES		5 A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, [illegible] 11 10	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2		
		7 THE VILLAGE		

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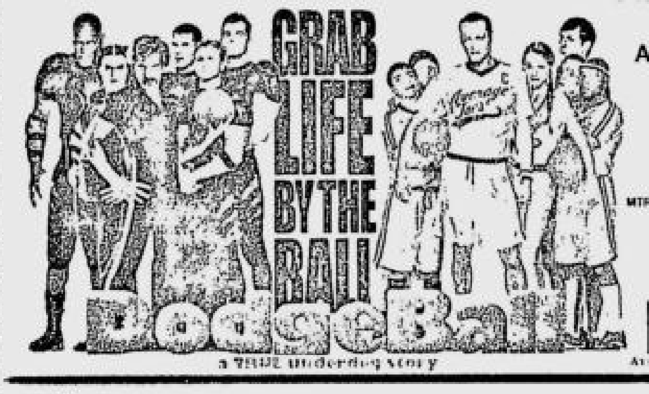

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GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
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Artery surgery for Patrick Stewart

LOS ANGELES—"X-Men" star Patrick Stewart is recovering at home after undergoing an angioplasty procedure earlier this week to widen an artery, his publicist said Friday.

Angioplasty involves the use of a catheter to place a small inflatable balloon in a narrowed blood vessel. When the balloon is inflated, the artery flows more freely.

Stewart, 64, who played Professor Charles Xavier in the "X-Men" film and its sequel and Capt. Jean-Luc Picard on "Star Trek: The Next Generation," went for an annual physical Monday, said his publicist, Kelly Bush.

Doctors found a blood-flow problem and recommended "preemptive angioplasty" to head off any future ailments.

Bush said Stewart will return to work next week to finish the upcoming movie "The Game of Their Lives." He also will start voiceover work on the Fox TV animated series "American Dad."

However, Stewart's recovery forced him to miss a planned appearance Saturday in Toronto, where he was to visit a Canadian sci-fi festival. *AP*

TV people...

From page A33

time schedule is 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Soon to come on Studio 23: the sixth season of "The Amazing Race" and "Survivor: Vanuatu," both in September.

'ASL - Please'

PETA presents **Liza Magtoto's** "ASL—Please" at Cinema 1 of SM Centerpoint on Sept. 16-18 and 23-25. The play is about a young girl who hides behind the anonymity of a chat name. While creating different characters for herself in the cyberworld, she loses her identity. Call 724-9637.

Mellow Touch Onscreen

ON TUESDAY, Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m., the new comedy, "Connie & Carla," premieres on Mellow Touch Onscreen at Cinema 6 of Robinsons Movieworld, Robinsons Galleria. **Nia Vardalos**, star of the sleeper hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," plays Connie, and her co-star is **Toni Collette.**

On Sept. 1, "The Terminal" will be screened at SM Megamall's Cinema 1. **Tom Hanks** plays an Eastern European who is stranded at Kennedy Airport and is forced to live in its international transit lounge until the war in his home country ends.

For exclusive invites to these advance screenings, stay tuned to Mellow Touch 94.7.

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Ecozone exports surge 21.5% to $17.86B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOTAL exports from the country's economic zones continued to surge as receipts jumped 21.5 percent to $17.86 billion in the first seven months from $14.7 billion in same period last year.

A report from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority showed that the four public ecozones yielded a total of $3.86 billion in revenues from January to July, an increase of 6.7 percent from $3.6 billion in the same period in 2003.

The Baguio City Economic Zone exported $1.65 billion worth of products; the Cavite Economic Zone, $1.15 billion; the Mactan Economic Zone, $883 million, and the Bataan Economic Zone, $179.9 million.

Of the public ecozones, Bataan posted the biggest increase in exports at 13.6 percent from $158.4 million in the first seven months last year.

The private or special economic zones (SEZs) shipped out a total of $13.9 billion worth of products, an increase of 26.3 percent from $11 billion last year.

The top five SEZ exporters were Laguna Technopark Inc. with $4.81 billion; Gateway Business Park, $2.59 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, $1.31 billion; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $583 million, and Lima Technology Center, $466 million.

Biggest SEZ exporter Laguna Technopark reported a 16.5-percent increase in exports from $4.1 billion in the first seven months last year. The four other top performers enjoyed growth rates of between 43 percent and 376 percent.

Information technology parks and buildings earned $100.7 million in receipts, an increase of 48.6 percent from $67.8 million.

The top five IT buildings and parks in the first seven months were: RCBC Place Information, earning $31 million; Eastwood City Cyber Park at $24.6 million; Pacific Information Technology, $12 million; The Enterprise Center, $8.2 million, and PBCom Tower, $7.6 million.

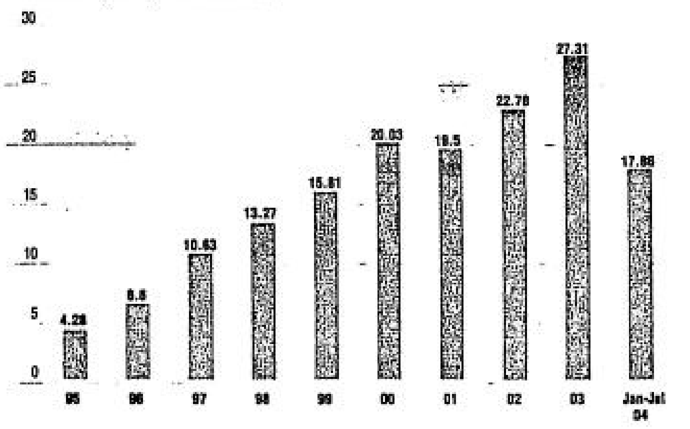
In an earlier report, the Peza said ecozone investments in the period jumped 131 percent to P28.4 billion from P12.3 billion a year ago.

The Peza said the number of projects approved from January to July also went up by 39.3 percent to 170 projects from 122.

Also, total employment in the ecozones rose 12.7 percent, with some 396,000 hired directly and about 594,000 employed indirectly.

The top three employers were the Cavite ecozone with 72,355 jobs; Laguna Technopark, 61,866; and the Mactan ecozone, 42,083.

ECONOMIC ZONE EXPORTS
1995 to July 2004, in billion dollars



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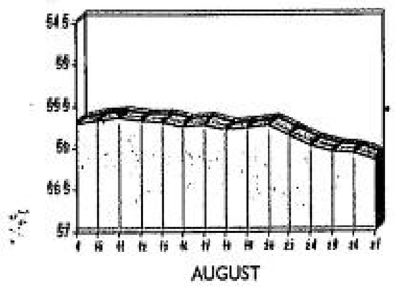

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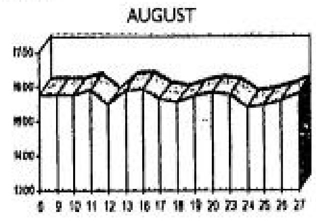
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 27, 2004

GOLD: $407.50-408.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 27, 2004

August 27, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825900	1.000000	56.0860
Japan	Yen	0.007540	0.009130	0.5121
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483730	1.796500	100.7585
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105887	0.128208	7.1907
Switzerland	Franc	0.649293	0.786164	44.0928
Canada	Dollar	0.631470	0.764584	42.8825
Singapore	Dollar	0.481996	0.583601	32.7318
Australia	Dollar	0.578969	0.701016	39.3172
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.190891	2.652731	148.7811
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220240	0.266667	14.9563
Brunei	Dollar	0.480594	0.581903	32.6366
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019834	0.024015	1.3469
UAE	Dirham	0.224857	0.272257	15.2698
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210800	67.9089
Argentina	Peso	0.276221	0.334448	18.7579
Brazil	Real	0.280109	0.339156	19.0219
Denmark	Kroner	0.134459	0.162803	9.1310
India	Rupee	0.017838	0.021598	1.2113
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217371	0.263193	14.7614
Mexico	New Peso	0.072750	0.088086	4.9404
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536020	0.649013	36.4005
Norway	Kroner	0.119794	0.145047	8.1351
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014082	0.017050	0.9563
South Africa	Rand	0.125159	0.151543	8.4994
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000867	0.0486
Sweden	Kroner	0.109466	0.132542	7.4338
Syria	Pound	0.016034	0.019414	1.0889
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024370	0.029507	1.6549
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000431	0.000522	0.0293

STOCK MARKET

Lackluster trading seen



(See stock market report on Page B6)

IT MAY be another lackluster week for the stock market due to concerns on inflation.

A rise in inflation is deemed as a warning signal that interest rates may soon rise, which can later crimp earnings growth and affect financing costs.

Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia said another flat session in the stock market might be seen this week as the market waited how August inflation would fare.

Consumer prices were expected to have risen by 6-6.6 percent in August from a year ago as global oil prices surged to record highs that month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas warned.

In July, the annual inflation rate, which measures the movement in prices of basic goods and services, stood at 6.1 percent.

However, Cerdenia said the recent decline in world crude prices

LACKLUSTER/ B6

Gov't wavers on shift to gross income taxation

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is having second thoughts about pursuing the planned shift to gross income taxation (GIT), saying the government may not be able to raise the expected revenue from the proposal because of its perceived flaws.

In a study on the proposed GIT for corporations and self-employed individuals, the DOF said the purpose of imposing a tax based on one's gross income might be defeated if the taxpayer would simply expand its cost of goods.

Under the proposed gross income taxation, corporate and self-employed individuals shall be imposed an income tax based on the gross amount, contrary to current practice of taxing them based on the net amount of income. Only cost of goods, or expenses that are directly related to production, should be deducted from one's revenue to determine the amount of taxable income.

The government's initial proposal was to set the gross income tax rate at a uniform 10 or 15 percent, compared with the current 32-percent net income tax imposed on corporations.

DOF estimates showed that the government could generate an additional P16.76 billion in annual revenue under a 10-percent GIT, and P37.92 billion under a 15-percent GIT, if the implementation of the proposed tax would not encounter significant problems.

The DOF, however, said the proposed GIT could result in disagreements between a taxpayer and a tax examiner over the meaning of "cost of goods." The taxpayers could mis-declare certain expenses as a direct cost of production to have more deductibles and pay less taxes, it added.

Another disadvantage of the GIT, according to the DOF, was that it could discourage investments because new businesses that were not yet realizing profits must also pay an income tax since this would be based on one's gross—and not net—income.

But the DOF also said the GIT had its merits. One was that it would ease tax administration because the Bureau of Internal Revenue would only have to verify gross revenue or income, and cost of goods, unlike the current net income tax system that required the BIR to determine the various deductibles in one's revenue

GOV'T/ B5

WB loan eyed to fund gov't streamlining

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank is processing a $200- to $300-million loan request from the Philippine government that will be used to pay for the retirement benefits of state employees who will be leaving public service under the ongoing streamlining program.

According to an official from the Department of Finance, the government and the foreign lender were in talks over the details of the loan for the Public Sector Rationalization Program. The World Bank is expected to approve the loan request next year, the official said.

The government is likewise asking the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for co-financing, the DOF official said.

The World Bank is expected to approve the loan request after saying it was preparing an assistance program aimed at helping the Philippine government

WB LOAN/ B6

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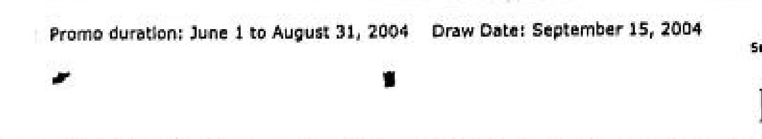

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Tighter screening of appointments to SSS, GSIS pushed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic managers are pushing for a tighter screening of board appointments in pension funds Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System as part of a master plan to boost the sluggish Philippine financial sector.

In a press briefing on the administration's reform agenda to boost the banking system and develop the capital markets Friday night, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officer-in-charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said the country must address the poor financial health of the SSS and GSIS.

Tetangco noted the fragile financial position of these state-owned pension funds that, in turn, has been causing wider funding gaps and declining surpluses.

He said the Department of Finance was drafting a more stringent criteria in the selection of SSS and GSIS board members to be submitted to Malacañang.

"We will introduce a clear set of credentials or qualifications that will become the basis for the appointments to the boards of SSS and GSIS," Tetangco said.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the criteria, similar to the "fit and proper" rule adopted by the Monetary Board for bank directors, would be over and above the minimum criteria prescribed by the respective charters of the pension funds.

Tetangco said other administrative measures needed were:

- to clearly outline the regulations to diversify and further improve the management of pension funds; and
- to provide regulations that will allow SSS to increase members' contribution to narrow the funding gap.

With these reforms, the economic managers seek to avoid a repetition of what happened during the Estrada regime, when funds of the SSS and GSIS were used for market intervention to favor crony stocks and to influence mergers and acquisitions in the country.

The Financial Sector Restructuring and Reform Agenda presented last Friday was part of the four imperatives of the Arroyo administration, specifically pertaining to the job creation and economic growth package.

The government aims to raise standards based on international best practices, convey greater enforcement powers, provide sufficient legal protection to regulators and facilitate the recovery of financial distressed enterprises to promote a stronger and more stable financial system.

The proposed legislative measures that will support this objective are:

- amendments to the BSP Charter to strengthen its supervisory powers;
- a Credit Reporting Bill to permit information sharing to protect investors and lenders;
- a Corporate Recovery Act to modernize and clarify the rules for debt restructuring and recovery;
- a Pre-Need Bill

TIGHTEN B3

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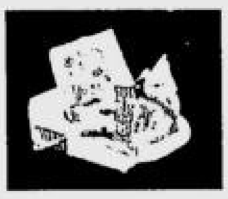

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  Host Exhibitor: Ellab Philippines Corp.
- BUYING THE RIGHT FRANCHISE
  Session 2 (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Philippine Franchise Association (PFA)
- BEYOND THE CUP COFFEE SEMINAR
  Session 3 (2:30 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Host Exhibitor: Equilibrium Inter-Trade Network
- COOKING SAFE: A WORRY-FREE KITCHEN
  Session 4 (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Shellane - Pilipinas Shell
- THE FUTURE OF OZONE IN WATER TREATMENT
  Session 5 (4:30 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: H2O Plus Water Treatment Company
- PNEUMATIC MOTION IN FOOD PROCESSING
  Session 6A (5:30 to 7:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Host Exhibitor: Intercoastal Int'l. Technologies Corp.

DAY 2: September 2, 2004 – Thursday
- MANAGING YOUR FRANCHISE SYSTEM
  Session 6B (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Host Exhibitor: Association of Filipino Franchisers (AFFI), Inc.
- FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES
  Session 7 (9:00 AM to 10:30 AM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Philippine Franchiser Association (PFA)
- METAL DETECTORS & CHECKWEIGHING SYSTEMS THERMAL TRANSFER CODING
  Session 8 (10:30 AM to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Alion Packaging Systems Corp.
- MULTILANE SACHET MACHINES
  Session 9 (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Clearpack Philippines, Inc.
- SMOKEY'S HOTDOG BAR FRANCHISING OPPORTUNITY
  Session 10 (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: San Miguel Purefoods Company, Inc.
- A GUIDE TO METAL DETECTION FOR FOOD PROCESSING & PACKAGING INDUSTRIES
  Session 11 (4:00 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Handyware Philippines, Inc.

DAY 3: September 3, 2004 – Friday
- HOW TO'S.... BECOMING A FRANCHISOR
  Session 12 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Host Exhibitor: Association of Filipino Franchisers (AFFI), Inc.
- HALAL CERTIFICATION & ACCREDITATION
  Session 13 (9:00 AM to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA)
- PACKAGING RESPONDS TO CHANGING CONSUMER LIFESTYLES
  Session 14 (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: San Miguel Packaging Products
- HIGHLY FLEXIBLE, HIGH SPEED FLAT-TOP CHAIN CONVEYOR FROM REXROTH
  Session 15 (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Intercoastal Int'l. Technologies Corp.
- NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CONTINUOUS AERATION
- MAKE YOUR OWN NITROGEN GAS TO ENSURE LONGER SHELF LIFE OF YOUR PRODUCTS
  CHOCOLATE PROCESSING THE LLOVERAS WAY
  Session 16 (4:00 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Handyware Philippines, Inc.

DAY 4: September 4, 2004 – Saturday
- SELECTING, NEGOTIATING & OPERATING A FRANCHISE
  Session 17 (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Host Exhibitor: Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.
- HOW TO FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS
  Session 18 (9:00 to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room 2
  9:00 TO 10:15 AM - FRANCHISE ADVANTAGE
  10:15 to 11:00 AM - FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
  11:15 to 12:00 NN - OVERVIEW OF THE FRANCHISE INDUSTRY
  Host Exhibitor: Philippine Franchise Association (PFA)
- BEYOND THE CUP COFFEE SEMINAR
  Session 19 (9:00 to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room C
  Host Exhibitor: Equilibrium Inter-Trade Network
- MEGAPROFITS IN THE COFFEE BUSINESS
  Session 20 (1:00 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Host Exhibitor: Allegro Beverage Corporation

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Telcos deplore fly-by-night carriers

By Clarissa S. Batino

CARRIERS led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its subsidiaries are losing substantial revenue in their overseas long distance operations due to operators of international facilities that bypass their system.

INQUIRER sources said PLDT has prepared a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that it wanted all industry players to sign to stop what it believed to be an increasing incidence of fraud in international connections.

Ronald Solis, chair of the National Telecommunications Commission, said the regulator would study the proposal of PLDT and other carriers to forge an MOA with the Commission against these types of fraud.

"We want the carriers to make a presentation first on the types of bypass and how these affect their operations," Solis said.

Fly-by-night carriers, according to sources, make money by operating a machine that would allow inbound overseas calls to be terminated on their facilities consisting mostly of cellular phone units.

The rising incidence of these types of calls is alarming PLDT and its wireless subsidiaries as well as other big carriers because these may have been affecting profits.

"There is a machine connected to a United States gateway and then inbound calls are routed to a local cellular number. It is not cheaper for the user but the operator makes money out of the termination bypass," a source said.

Carriers lose between P3.50 and P4.50 for every call terminated on these bypass units.

This is the reason why some incoming overseas calls carry local mobile phone numbers. An official from one of the big carriers said this process would fall under the classification of international simple resale and is allowed in other countries but not in the Philippines.

"This set-up is not allowed in the country because there is a policy requiring all international traffic to be routed directly through a local number using the international gateway facilities of the carriers," said an executive from one of the big carriers.

The "irregular system," according to a source, was similar to how others operate a cheap international text messaging service.

A prominent company, for instance, uses the SIM cards of Globe and Smart to operate prepaid international text service that allows mobile phone users to send text messages overseas for only P5 while the telecom giants charge between P10 and P15 for every overseas text message sent.

"The same set-up is used in voice calls except that in voice calls, there is no benefit to the user overseas because the rates being charged are the same. It is only the illegal operator that benefits because he is able to bypass the termination fees," a source said.

He said the illegal operators simply pay an interconnection fee of about P5.50 instead of P9 for each call terminated on the facilities of big carriers.

Tighter…

From page B2

to strengthen and enhance the regulatory framework for the management of companies selling preneed plans in order to protect future investors and plan holders, and

- amendments to the Corporation Code to strengthen corporate governance regulations to protect minor shareholders and small investors.

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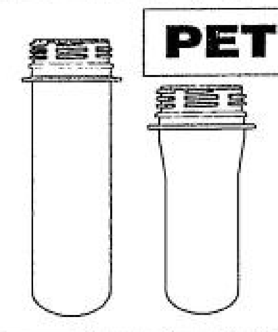
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GMA'S STATE VISIT

RP, China set to discuss 'early harvest' agreement

THE COUNTRY'S participation in the "early harvest program" of the Asean-China Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation is expected to be raised during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China next week.

The early harvest program is a free-trade agreement between China and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters Committee last year voted to reject the country's participation in this program saying that the gains from getting advanced access to Mainland China were too meager to cover the potential losses to be brought about by the opening up of the country's agriculture markets to Chinese farmers.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C Yap confirmed that talks on the free-trade deal between the Philippines and China under the early harvest program was part of the President's agenda

Yap said the Philippine government would negotiate with its Chinese counterpart for concessions deemed necessary to help the country enhance its competitiveness.

"We hope we can obtain all our proposed concessions," Yap told reporters Friday.

China wanted 400 products to be covered by the agreement and to be given preferential tariff rates. In return, it will open its markets to Philippine exports.

The Philippines, however, was amenable to only 175 of these products but it agreed to make room for 30 more commodities. The country had excluded from China's list agricultural products such as vegetable, pork, chicken, rice and corn. *Christine A. Gaylican*

RCBC sells stake in SCCP to exchange

THE YUCHENGCOS' Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. has accepted the Philippine Stock Exchange's offer to buy the bank's 22-percent stake in the Securities and Clearing Corp., of the Philippines.

Another partner-bank of the SCCP, Equitable PCI Bank, also agreed to sell its stake to the exchange.

"The PSE wanted to buy out the two participating banks, and we (the two banks) both sold out," RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata said.

The PSE has an existing 51 percent stake in SCCP. It wants to increase its equity in SCCP to boost its revenue-generating capacity. The PSE believes it can make SCCP's operations more efficient if it has a 100-percent control of the firm.

However, Virata said the two banks would continue doing the clearing in the next two years.

The deal with RCBC and Equitable PCI, involving about 220,000 common shares, will raise the PSE's stake in SCCP to about 95 percent.

The remaining 5 percent is held by Citibank NA. The PSE is awaiting the foreign bank's decision on a similar buyout proposal.

All eligible trades executed at the PSE go through the SCCP. This electronic system is also responsible for implementing mark-to-market and net negative exposure collateralization of stock brokers in the PSE. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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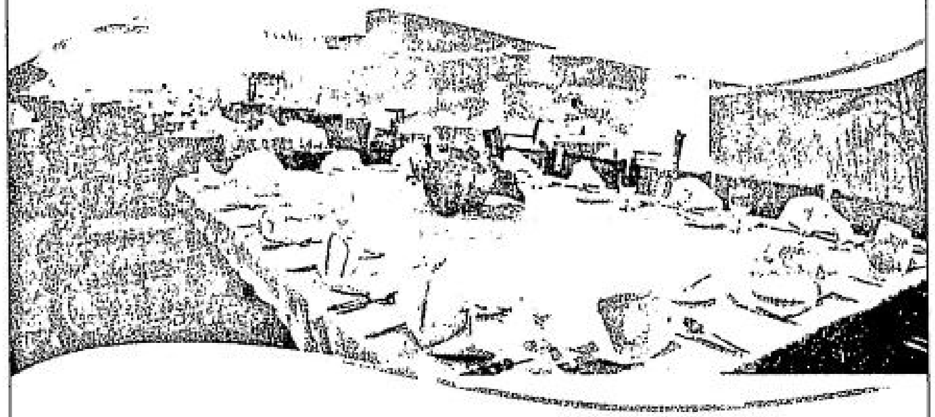

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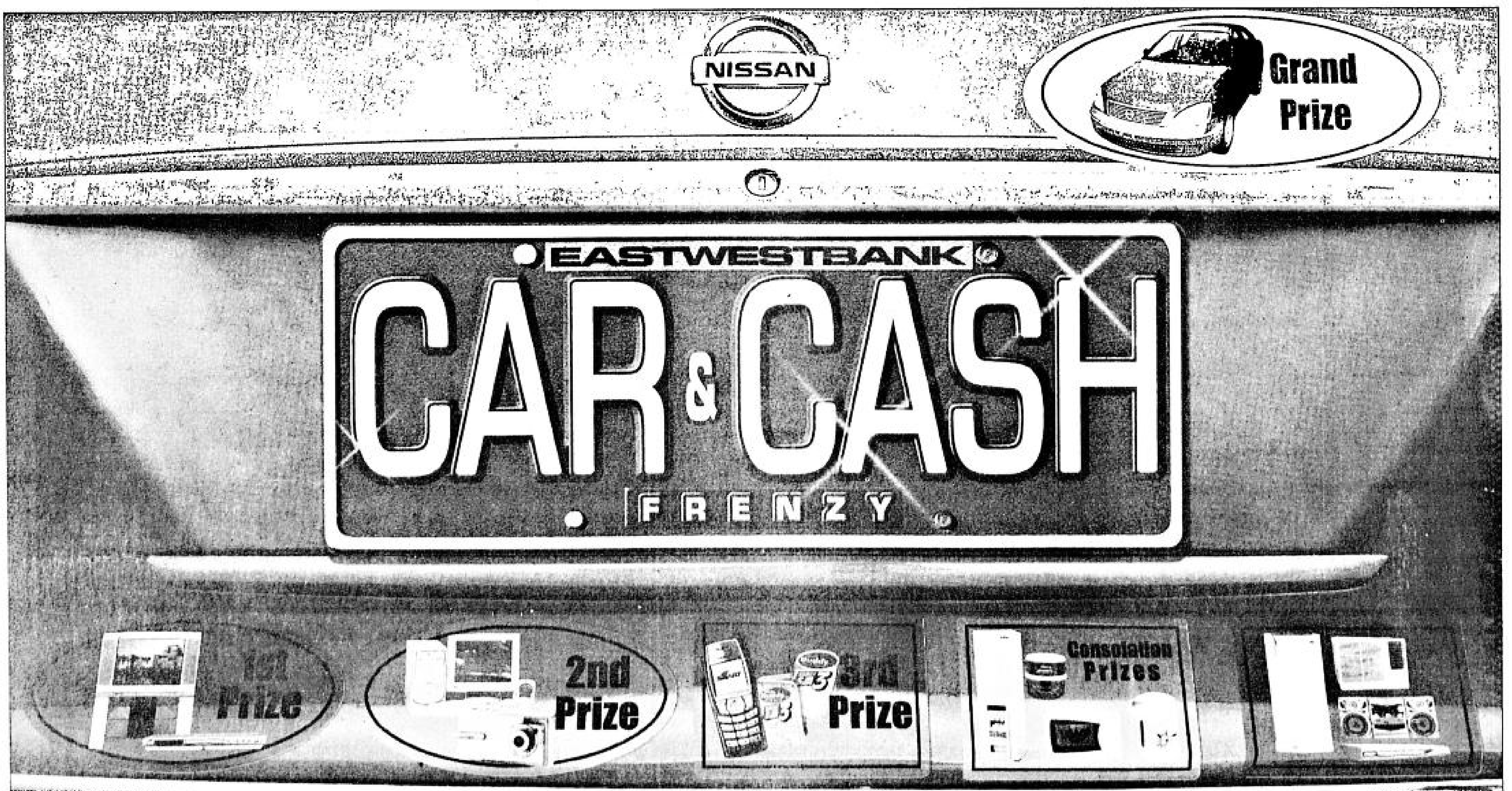

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Skyway driver

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THEY hold only one seat in the 15-member board of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., but it looks like Manuel V. Pangilinan and his Metro Pacific Corp. are now the *kapitan* of the Indonesian company that built the Skyway.

Metro Pacific announced over the weekend that its president and CEO, Jose Ma. Lim, has been appointed chief operating officer of Citra, whose functions had been previously performed by president/CEO Cesar Quiambao.

The publicly listed property concern holds a minority stake in Citra through a subsidiary, Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc.

Lim's marching orders: Craft a new business plan, undertake a corporate and financial restructuring to rebuild Citra and enhance shareholder values, attract new investors and capital, and hire a chief financial officer. The current CFO, incidentally, is an Indonesian expatriate.

"In this regard, Mr. Lim will be working closely with the current president and CEO Cesar T. Quiambao, along with Citra's Indonesian sponsors and Metro Pacific," the news release said.

According to the grapevine, the reorganization of Citra is part of Metro Pacific's grand plan to form a consortium with two other private groups that have acquired the franchise to build and maintain tollways that would connect the South Luzon Expressway all the way from Balintawak to Batangas City.

That so-called 'B2B' plan has already been roundly endorsed by Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, who thinks that the government, through National Development Co. and PNCC, should also hold an equity stake to give the planned venture access to cheap overseas multilateral funding and thus hold down tollway fees.

GSIS now P1.3B short

PHILIPPINE National Bank has garnished more than P1.2 billion of GSIS funds kept within PNB following a court order issued by Pasig RTC Judge Celso Laviña.

Following the same order, Development Bank of the Philippines likewise garnished more than P163 million in GSIS money held within DBP in various accounts.

Laviña's order stemmed from a civil case filed by one Eduardo Santiago, represented by lawyer Jose Suing, against the Government Service Insurance System. According to the grapevine, Santiago is the owner of a property that had been mistakenly foreclosed and sold by the GSIS.

The GSIS, saying it needs a daily cash flow of at least P200 million to meet its obligations, has filed a petition for mandamus seeking to reverse the Laviña order and win back the contested funds.

Moreover, the GSIS is exempt from having its funds and properties being garnished, said GSIS chief legal counsel Elmer Bautista, citing the GSIS charter and previous Supreme Court rulings.

EPCIB raises its defenses

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved key amendments to the corporate bylaws of Equitable PCIBank, amid what the bank considered as a hostile takeover attempt by the Banco de Oro group.

The SEC approval came after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas endorsed the amendments.

Among the changes: A special board meeting may be called only in the absence or inability or refusal of the chair and the president to convene such a meeting.

Despite being reduced to being minority shareholders, the Go family still controls the management of the bank through an uneasy alliance with the SSS and the GSIS, the two government pension funds that now own more than 47 percent of the bank.

Heard through the grapevine

FACED with dwindling patronage, the cash-strapped Manila Yacht Club is proposing to amend its charter to allow corporate membership as well as open its doors and the use of its facilities to "guests."

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

JG Summit revives petrochem plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JG SUMMIT Petrochemicals Corp. said it has revived plans to build a naphtha cracker plant at its petrochemical complex in Batangas City.

The company's chief operating officer said the cracker project would have a capacity of producing 350,000 metric tons of raw materials for plastic products a year.

"The project will ensure a reliable and competitive source of feedstock for our polyethylene and polypropylene plants, which have been operating since 1998," Wilfredo A. Paras said.

Paras, who is also JGSPC executive vice president, said the planned naphtha cracker was expected to operate commercially in the first half of 2008.

"(The project will also) enhance the profitability of our operations, and enable us to weather and even benefit from the [cycles of boom and bust] inherent in this business," he added.

He said JGSPC's move of backward integration would make the Philippine petrochemical industry competitive and would encourage further investments in midstream and downstream industries.

When asked how much the investment would cost, Paras declined to give a figure, saying the price would depend on negotiations with equipment suppliers.

The project was still in the planning stage but the company has agreed to pursue it, he said, noting that it was still a challenging business due to the high prices of petrochemicals.

Gov't wavers on shift . . .

From page B1

to come up with the taxable amount.

The DOF said the GIT, together with the seven other revenue-enhancement measures being pushed by the Arroyo administration, were all still being carefully assessed. Once the DOF has completed its evaluation of the measures, it would submit its position papers and own versions of the bills to Congress.

Among the measures, however, four are expected to be presented first by the administration's economic team. These are the P2 increase in the excise tax on petroleum products, the indexation of excise tax on alcohol and cigarette to inflation, the imposition of franchise tax on telecommunication companies, and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

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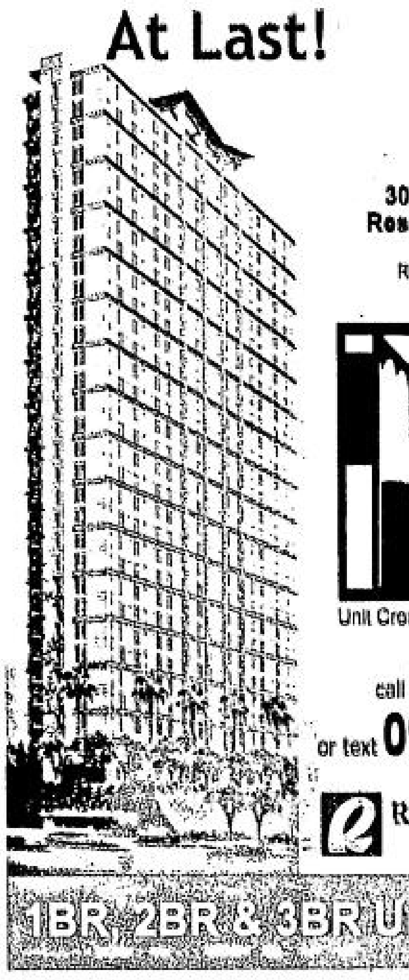

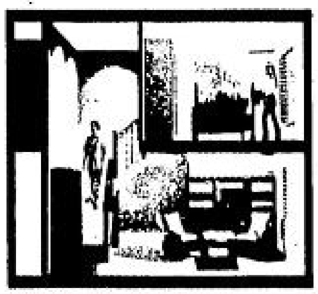

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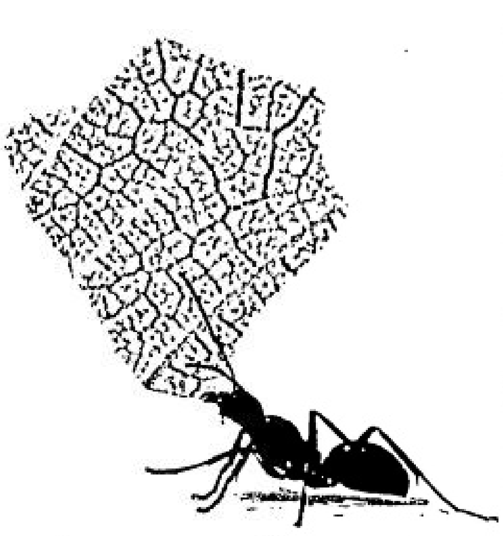

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SSS to auction 29% stake in Equitable PCI in October

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE STATE-OWNED pension fund Social Security System will auction its 29-percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank this October despite stiff opposition from mall magnate Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The SSS, which was not able to consummate an earlier agreement to sell the block to BDO, allowed a Swiss challenge that will give the SM group the right to match the highest bid price during the auction.

"In the absence of an injunction, our lawyers said we could proceed with the bidding," SSS president Corazon dela Paz told reporters Friday night at the sidelines of a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas briefing on financial sector restructuring.

The SSS has given interested parties until Oct. 20 to submit their offer for the stake.

Asked whether there was any chance that the SSS could revive the agreement with BDO, such as in the case of a failed bidding, Dela Paz said she could not give a speculative answer.

Insisting that the deal was legally binding, BDO has filed a lawsuit at the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court to compel the SSS to honor the agreement.

BDO earlier agreed to pay P43.50 or P14 billion for the block, but this would be through a combination of a cash downpayment of P1 billion and a secured promissory note with staggered maturity. The bank, however, was willing to revert to an earlier offer to pay more than P8 billion in cash instead.

The SSS-BDO deal drew flak and even triggered a Senate probe because of the absence of a public bidding, although the Department of Justice later on allowed the pension fund to proceed with the sale.

But the two parties failed to close the deal as their exclusive negotiation period lapsed in end-June. Dela Paz said certain provisions in the agreement were not complied with.

"We will study whether we will go along with the bidding or not, we are still deciding," BDO chair Tessie Sy Coson said in an interview after a Taipan Entrepreneurship forum by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.

With a hint of weariness in her voice over the recent developments of the deal, she said the BDO group has not drawn up a gameplan yet for the expected bidding of shares in Equitable PCI.

Sy said the BDO group remained interested in the bank and had not eyed other banks to buy as of this time.

She did not give a firm answer when asked if BDO would be willing to raise its offer price for Equitable PCI in light of the SSS' Swiss Challenge auction.

Singapore-based Abacus Capital Cayman Ltd., which manages the Asian Opportunities Fund, later on submitted a written offer to purchase the same stake at P49 a share, higher than the price earlier agreed upon by BDO with the SSS.

If Abacus Capital were indeed interested, Dela Paz said it should join the bidding. She said interested parties could buy the terms of reference for the bidding at P100,000.

A local investment banker said the Swiss auction still favored the Sy family and could make the bidding less attractive for other interested investors.

BDO is currently the country's 9th biggest bank and Equitable PCI, the fourth. A potential merger could create the second biggest banking entity in the country, edging out the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Crisis in the air

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

WITH the "-ber" months coming in a couple of days, it's not Christmas but another C word that preoccupies many of us. Much has been said and written since eleven UP economists came up with their paper "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt" last week—and especially after the President promptly affirmed that we are indeed already in crisis. Since much of my own writings in this space over the past months had been largely along the same lines, I cannot help but add further to the ongoing public discussion.

The crisis is here

I agree that unless we change course drastically, we are already headed in the direction of financial and economic disaster; I had been saying so in this column since several months ago ("Doing an Argentina?," "Debt primer," and "Frightening numbers," in NFL, Feb. 23, March 1 and 8, respectively). And given the dictionary definition of crisis, i.e. "turning point between life or death, survival or failure," it is semantically correct to state that we are indeed already in a crisis situation (thank Prof. Winnie Monsod for pointing this out in a recent column).

Thus, the President was just being factual in affirming that we already are in crisis. But crisis is not the same as disaster, although most people seem to equate the two, which is a misuse of the term. A fiscal crisis we certainly are already in, but a financial disaster like Argentina had two years ago, or like the East Asian region had in 1997-98, we are not—not yet, anyway. And the time for decisive action to avoid disaster is now.

It is thus frustrating to hear some politicians accuse the administration that all this talk of crisis is just a ploy to pressure lawmakers to pass its urgent tax measures—as if denying there was a crisis at all. Yes, there are non-tax measures that could address the fiscal bind we are in, but short of a dramatic upheaval in our system and its leadership, we can never get these done quickly enough to avert the brewing disaster. Forget about why we're in this crisis and who brought us there for now. The cold and unfortunate reality that our politicians and the rest of us have to face up to is that we need some urgent revenue measures now to avert disaster. And there are a few good and reasonable ones worthy of Congressional support.

Why pick on LGUs?

Where I disagree with my UP colleagues is in the recommendation to unilaterally withhold 10 percent of the local government units' (LGUs) internal revenue allotments under the Local Government Code, by having the President declare an unmanageable fiscal deficit, a requirement of the law. My positive experience working with the Gawad Galing Pook Foundation and the League of Cities Best Practices Award over the past year has convinced me that so much more good can be done at the local government level than at the central government level, if you have the right partnerships among LGUs, local civil society and local businesses. Thus, I would hate to see their funds "confiscated" to give way to less effective spending at the national level.

I agree that there must be burden-sharing, but whereas voluntary sacrifices are being asked of everyone else, why single out the LGUs to do so involuntarily? What's additionally bad about this recourse is that it would require a formal declaration of an "unmanageable fiscal deficit," a drastic admission of failure and helplessness that would have its own adverse consequences for the economy. Just look at how the markets reacted when the President affirmed the fiscal crisis. The exchange rate shot up and the stock market went down promptly. And with declining credibility on our ability to honor our debts, interest rates on government borrowings will inevitably rise, as they already have been doing. These are additional difficulties we need not further bring upon ourselves through a formal admission of helplessness.

Rather than unilaterally cut local funds across the board, the better recourse would be for the President to exercise "moral suasion" on local executives through the Leagues of Provinces, Municipalities, Cities and Barangays. I am confident that just like legislators who are increasingly willing to give up their pork barrel funds, local executives deciding collectively will be prepared to cut where it is reasonable to do so, while protecting spending on truly beneficial local development initiatives.

Debt relief

With a record share of our revenues and our budget now accounted for by debt payments (over four-fifths of revenues for both interest and principal amortization, or a third of the budget for interest payments alone), it is high time we address this side of the equation. Unilateral action to reduce debt payments is of course out of the question, as this will bring on the impending disaster much sooner. But by now, our institutional creditors surely appreciate enough that we have painted ourselves into a corner (not without help from them!), and not allowing us some leeway at this time will ultimately be going against their own interests. Thus, we do have some leverage.

Negotiating for debt relief should thus be a serious option our government must pursue. But for the creditors to be sympathetic, our leaders need to have the moral ascendancy to assure them that we can use whatever leeway they give us to maximum advantage in extricating ourselves out of the problem. And this means taking the decisive actions needed on our part first. And yes, this includes some new revenue measures.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

WB loan eyed to fund . . .

From page B1

weather the fiscal problem.

The Arroyo administration has included the streamlining of government agencies as part of its measures to address the country's serious fiscal problem, characterized by a huge budget deficit and a ballooning debt.

The national government's budget deficit, or the gap between higher expenditure and low revenue, stood at P199.9 billion last year. Its debt has already reached P4.1 trillion as of February this year.

Despite fears of a full-blown fiscal crisis in the Philippines, the World Bank has expressed confidence that the government could still turn things around. World Bank country director Joachim Amsberg earlier said the Arroyo administration's recognition of the gravity of its fiscal problem as well as the revenue-enhancement measures it was preparing kept the government on track to averting a crisis.

"We are pleased with the World Bank's expression of confidence. Indeed, there is a very bright horizon ahead for the Philippines to be able to overcome the fiscal problem that it is facing right now," the official said.

The Department of Budget and Management earlier said the government was allotting P15 billion this year to pay for retirement benefits of those who would voluntarily leave government service. The World Bank loan, if approved, would be used in 2005.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier promised a "silver parachute," or an attractive retirement package, for those who would choose to retire. The government reiterated that the streamlining would be done on a voluntary basis, meaning employees would have the option to stay.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 27, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	52,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	203,500
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	1,020
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41	41	41	2,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	130,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	229,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	37,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	11,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2260	2265	2260	2265	390
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.46	1.34	1.44	3,713,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	106	106	104	104	900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1525	1535	1525	1535	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	1,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	870	860	870	87,740
Ipeople Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.6	10,659,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1245	1260	1245	1260	164,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.7	6,330,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	18,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	25,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.5	22	22.25	1,127,100
Petron Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.55	2.7	3,413,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.12	204,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	165,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	176,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.25	2,982,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.49	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	920,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.84	2.18	1.84	2.12	8,464,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,022,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	230,000
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.82	0.77	0.79	340,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	190,100
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70	69.5	70	26,000
Universal Robina Corp.	7.6	8.1	7.6	8.1	700,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	4,113,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.27	0.27	120,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	91,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.16	1.26	1.16	1.26	2,474,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	939,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	1,680,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	260,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.29	0.24	0.27	30,610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.16	2.06	2.08	17,582,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	39,800,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5	418,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.0725	29,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.72	2.18	1.72	2.18	6,441,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.72	1.64	1.72	154,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	34,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	15,230,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	140,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.17	0.145	0.155	7,600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	1,580,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.215	13,750,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	36	36	36	36	2,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.86	1.7	1.82	2,462,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.71	0.72	12,660,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	1.74	1.9	1.74	1.9	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20	20	20	20	220,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	63,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,135,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	2,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	5,670,000
Gotesco Land Inc B	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	400,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.19	0.16	0.19	2,800,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	11,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	1.06	0.99	1.04	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	2,626,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	86,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.05	3.05	3	3	75,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	34,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	103,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	23,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	151,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	76,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3	213,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,391,330	23,841,295.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	261,120,590	560,244,360.00
PRO	18,282,000	28,590,450.00
Mining	267,245,000	5,047,000.00
OIL	227,433,000	1,598,450.00
GRAND TOTALS:	778,471,920	619,321,555.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	459.77	UP 3.27
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,526.35	UP 42.11
PRO	517.11	UP 1.35
Mining	1,798.07	DOWN 44.97
OIL	1.67	DOWN 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,017.63	UP 6.02
Composite	1,582.04	UP 20.71

NO. OF ADVANCES: 48; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 114; NO. OF TRADES: 3,272

Lackluster trading seen

From page B1

might support sentiment in the short-term, "though volatility is likely to remain" for the rest of the year.

For the week, the benchmark index was lower by 0.8 point at 1582.04, as bargain hunting buoyed the market during the latter part of the week.

Analysts noted that the market was pulled down largely by stocks of the Lopez Group such as Manila Electric Co., Benpres Holdings, First Philippine Holdings and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

Other losers were Metro Pacific Corp., Equitable PCI, Jollibee Foods Corp., Ayala Corp., SM Prime Holdings, Philippine National Bank and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Second-line stocks managed to climb, among them DMCI Holdings, Ionics Inc., Music Semiconductors and Union Cement.

"Investors are likely to take advantage of lower prices to accumulate. The drop in oil prices helped ease concerns on inflation. The market is likely to consolidate between 1572 to 1600," BPI Trade noted in its weekly report.

The market suffered a sharp slide early this week due to the statement of President Macapagal-Arroyo that the country was in the midst of a crisis.

Many analysts said the market saw this as an excuse to sell stocks.

"The private sector has to understand that in two to three years, the pain will be greater if they don't bite the bullet now," said Anton Periquet, head of research at foreign brokerage firm Deutsche Regis Partners Inc.

"We have to make sacrifices. It's belt tightening time. Specific taxes should be put in place. It is a question of political will. If the public is asked to pay more, the government should be willing to cut expenditures. Giving up the pork barrel is the best demonstration (of that resolve)," Periquet added. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,230,000/1,250,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista	350,000	240,000
Baguio Country Club	630,000	550,000
Calatagan Golf	65,000	-
Camp John Hay	240,000	180,000
Capitol Hills	135,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	170,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/350,000*/400,000**	-
Eastridge A/B*	-	70,000/90,000*
Forest Hills A/C*	180,000/250,000*	210,000*
Luisita Golf	400,000	-
Manila Golf Ind/Corp.*	-	10,500,000
Manila Polo	-	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods A	420,000	-
Makati Sports Club	210,000	180,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	90,000/100,000*
Mimosa C2/C3*	220,000	250,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind	180,000	140,000
Mt. Malarayat A/B*	180,000	250,000*
Orchard A/B*/C**	230,000	180,000/280,000*/Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	120,000/160,000*/180,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	300,000	-
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Orchard Golf Club "B"	please call	220K
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Forest Hills "C"	-	240,000
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Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
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Orchard Golf Club "A"	150,000	220,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	450,000
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CPP/NPA terrorist? You bet!

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

LUIS JALANDONI was up to his old tricks when he showed up as the guest in a recent TV talk show. His broad smile hardly masked the rebel smirk on his aging face. He did sound and look like the priest he used to be, as if he was delivering a homily on the beatitudes. But he is nothing but a lousy communist.

Lousy communist Jalandoni says that the national government should complain to the US for violating Philippine sovereignty by listing the CPP/NPA as a terrorist organization. As on so many other things nowadays, lousy communist Jalandoni is wrong. US law defines what a Foreign Terrorist Organization is. The CCP/NPA falls squarely under this definition. Besides, since lousy communist Jalandoni wants to topple the government by force of arms and install a communist regime, his complaint is downright hypocritical.

In 1969, fellow lousy communist Jose Ma. Sison put up the CPP along Macist lines. Mao preached that whoever controlled the countryside would eventually control the rest of the country, as the cities would fall like over-ripe fruit. Thus, lousy communist Sison also organized the NPA as the CPP's military arm. The strategy worked in China, but has miserably failed here. The NPA has not controlled the countryside. No area is beyond the reach of the Armed Forces. No city or municipality has been in danger of falling to the communists.

As long as the CPP/NPA is limited to guerrilla warfare, it cannot win. In China and Vietnam, the guerrillas finally won when they became strong enough to defeat government forces in conventional warfare. For the CPP/NPA, this is a pipe dream.

Lousy communists Jalandoni and Sison have lost their ideological moorings. World Communism has collapsed. In the early 1990s, the USSR, the workers' paradise, was bankrupt. It could no longer feed its population. Coal miners' wages were months in arrears. The second strongest superpower disappeared from the world map. The Baltic States and the satellite countries in Eastern Europe broke away.

Today, China is a member of the World Trade Organization. Russia hopes to be a member this year. The former satellite countries have also lined up for membership. Even Vietnam is frantically turning capitalist. Only Cuba and North Korea are left of the communist world.

With Communism having crumbled around them, lousy communists Sison and Jalandoni, in self-exile in Holland, are the only communists left in all of Europe. In their foolish pride, they cling to their fantasy of a Filipino proletariat paradise.

The CPP has splintered into an alphabet soup of front organizations. The list is long, but it is nothing but a list.

The NPA, touted in the beginning as the protector of the peasants, has deteriorated into an extortionist gang, a rural Mafia, terrorizing the very poor they were supposed to defend. The NPA's major activity now is to extort "revolutionary taxes"—the communist version of the value added tax—from the poorest of the poor in the far-flung barrios. Barrio folk are tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Code, but not to the NPA. At the point of an Armalite rifle, collection efficiency is 100 percent.

Everything that moves or grows is taxed 10 percent of market value: rice and corn, vegetables and fruits, livestock and poultry, root crops and forest products, fresh and salt water fish and shellfish, copra and coconuts. The NPA takes 10 percent from the top of barrio *sari-sari* store sales. Barrio teachers' salaries are not spared. If the parish priest gives in, the NPA takes a tithe of church collections.

Government sources estimate that the NPA collects at least P200 million a year. Lousy communist Jalandoni says the taxes are contributions to the rebel movement. He lies. The taxes are the reason why the barrios continue to grovel in abject poverty. The heaviest financial and psychological burden of the barrios is the NPA.

Where does the money go? Lousy communist Jalandoni says the taxes are spent on social projects in the barrios. He lies again. He can point to no single such project. On the contrary, the NPA is against all sorts of projects to improve the barrios. A young lady social worker in Bicol was killed because she persuaded a barrio to dig an irrigation canal to improve rice harvests.

The blood money ends up in Manila. Some is probably wired to Holland. What stays is spent for streamers, red flags, effigies, bullhorns, as pocket money for demonstrators and for media coverage. It is spent on full-page ads, and to get into TV talk shows. Finally, why shouldn't it finance the candidacies of communist front organizations in the party list elections?

Where is the CPP/NPA's national treasury? For all I know, it is in a mansion in a posh village in Makati.

The CPP/NPA has terrorized the far-flung barrios for 30 long years. There is no need to count the dead bodies. In a terrorist regime, dead bodies are not displayed hanging from every other coconut tree. In fact, the terror that grips the barrio folk gives an aura of peace. It is the peace of the graveyard.

Lousy communists Sison and Jalandoni must really be proud of themselves.

Smart offers new SMS service

BEGINNING today, subscribers of Smart Communications Inc. can "text" their concerns to the Department of Education (DepEd) via a new SMS-based service.

Dubbed DETxt, the new service lets public school faculty, staff, students, parents and the general public express their concerns and inquiries to the education department using their mobile phones.

Subscribers of Smart Gold, addict mobile, Smart Buddy and Talk 'N Text can send their messages to the department through a short access number 262. Charge per text is P1.

"We are happy to assist the DepEd in upgrading the DETxt service through the use of the more user-friendly and easy to memorize three-digit access code. Before this, the department was using a regular, 11-digit Smart number," said Edgardo R. Bautista, group head for Smart's Mobile Value Added Services operations.

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Smart will deliver the messages to DepEd and department officials will provide the appropriate responses.

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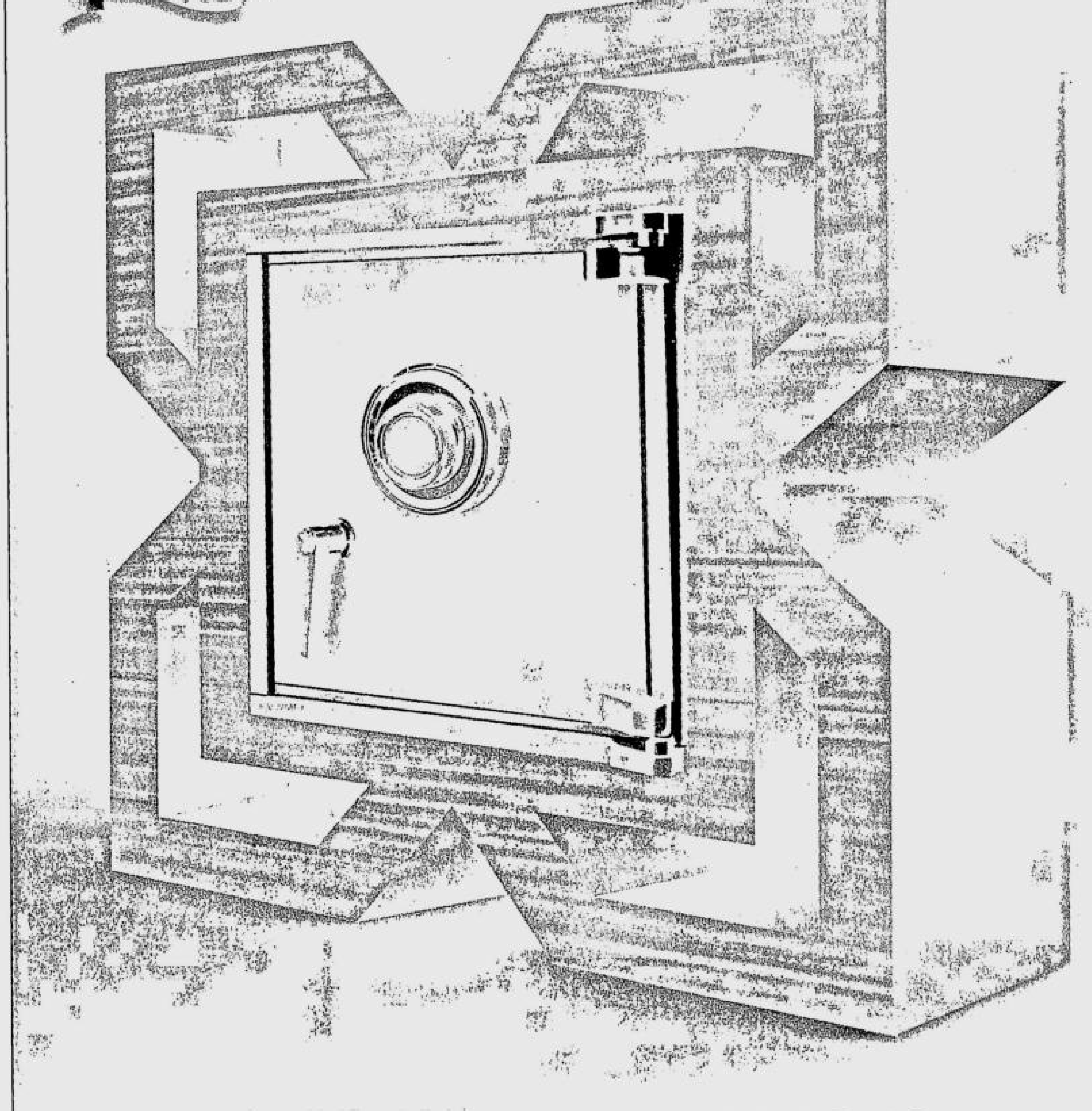

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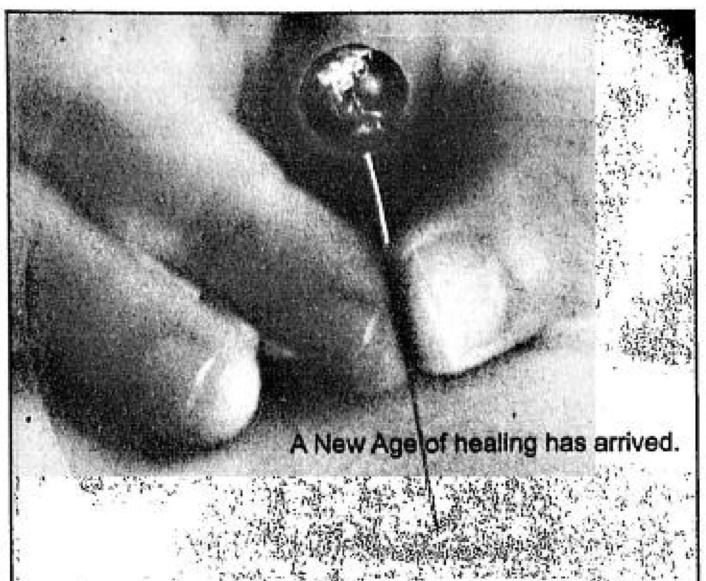

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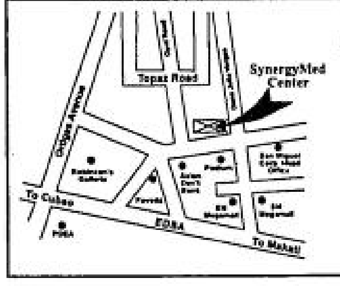

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Gov't taps Asian state companies for oil, gas exploration projects

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID to achieve a 60-percent energy self-sufficiency by 2010, from today's 52 percent, the government continues to hold discussions with some of Asia's national oil companies for oil exploration and natural gas development projects.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said "confidence building in the South China Sea" was what the government was doing now.

The Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) last year signed a letter of intent with the China National Offshore Oil Corp. to conduct joint oil and gas exploration activities in the South China Sea.

The two state firms likewise agreed to jointly review, assess and evaluate available geological, geophysical and other technical data relevant in determining the area's oil and gas potential.

Among the potential areas for exploration are those in the vicinity of the Spratly islands.

But Perez said there were still no development in the potential joint exploration activities by PNOC-EC and CNOOC as the two state firms were still in discussions.

He said PNOC-EC was also in talks with other regional national oil players for the development of the country's indigenous energy resources.

Discussions are still ongoing with Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) of Malaysia and Pertamina of Indonesia for the development of the country's natural gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in Palawan.

Petronas, he said, could lend the country its technical expertise in developing natural gas, including the pipelines needed to transport gas to power generation facilities and the "pooling districts" for shopping malls and other huge establishments that use natural gas.

The Malaysian oil giant had also helped jumpstart the country's natural gas vehicle program by sending some natural gas-run taxis here.

With Pertamina, Perez said discussions were along the lines of a possible supply agreement, in case Malampaya's natural gas yield would be insufficient.

"I don't want to highlight one particular discussion over the other because all other discussions have unique strategic value," he said.

All these discussions with other regional oil companies, he said, were geared at boosting the country's ability to harness its indigenous energy resources.

Napocor sales up 2.22% in first 6 months

TOTAL energy sales of National Power Corp. went up 2.22 percent to 17,551.72 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in the first half of the year, from 17,170.68 GWh in the same period the previous year.

Napocor's sales and services group said in a report that the Visayas grid registered the highest growth during the first six months, going up to 2,015.60 GWh from 1,852.72 GWh in 2003.

The 8.79-percent growth in Visayas power sales was attributed to robust sales across all customer classes-cooperatives, power utilities and industries in the January-June period.

Mindanao sales also increased by 8.23 percent to 3,213.53 GWh in the first half from 2,969.17 GWh in the same period a year ago.

Unlike the Visayas and Mindanao grids, energy sales in the Luzon grid dropped 0.13 percent from 11,569.19 GWh in the first semester of 2003 to only 11,554.34 GWh this year.

The decline in Luzon power sales was the result of a 4.17-percent dip in sales to the Manila Electric Co., the state firm's single largest energy buyer nationwide.

During the first six months of the year, Meralco's purchases from Napocor decreased to 7,470.28 GWh from 7,795 GWh in the same period last year.

Napocor said Meralco's power purchases from the state firm went down because it "consumed less than its contracted demand and sourced a significant portion of its requirements from its own independent power producers" First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

Aside from the three main power grids, Napocor also supplies electricity to missionary areas all over the country under its Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG).

Sales to the SPUG areas increased 5.76 percent to 223.16 GWh in the January-June period from 211 GWh in the same period the previous year.

Another component of Napocor's overall energy sales, its one-day power sales scheme, posted a 4.11-percent decline in the first half, to 545.08 GWh from 568.43 GWh the year before.

The drop in the state firm's one-day power sales was attributed to the scheme's high selling rates due to the escalating prices of fuel.

Abigail L. Ho

Electronics industry posts 8% growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY's semiconductor and electronics industry grew 8 percent in the first five months of the year.

Ernie Santiago, executive director of the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries of the Philippines Inc., said the industry's performance from January to May gave the group a strong reason to hold on to its target of achieving a 10-percent growth rate for 2004.

Seipi projections showed that the sector would grow this year by at least P24 billion or about 10 percent from last year's P230 billion amid a surge of demand in the global market.

As this developed, Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands announced that its local unit was investing at least $250 million over the next three years to expand its Philippine operations.

Gerald Kleisterlee, Royal Philips president and chief executive, said in an interview that the investment would go to its assembly and testing plants in Cabuyao, Laguna.

According to the company's website, Philips Semiconductors Inc.-Cabuyao is a state-of-the-art facility for the assembly and testing of more than 5,000 different discrete products.

Philips' plant at the Light Industry and Science Park I is known for its power and general-use products as well as its facilities for radio frequency and RF mobile communication.

Kleisterlee said the consumer electronics giant considered its local operations one of the best in its worldwide organization.

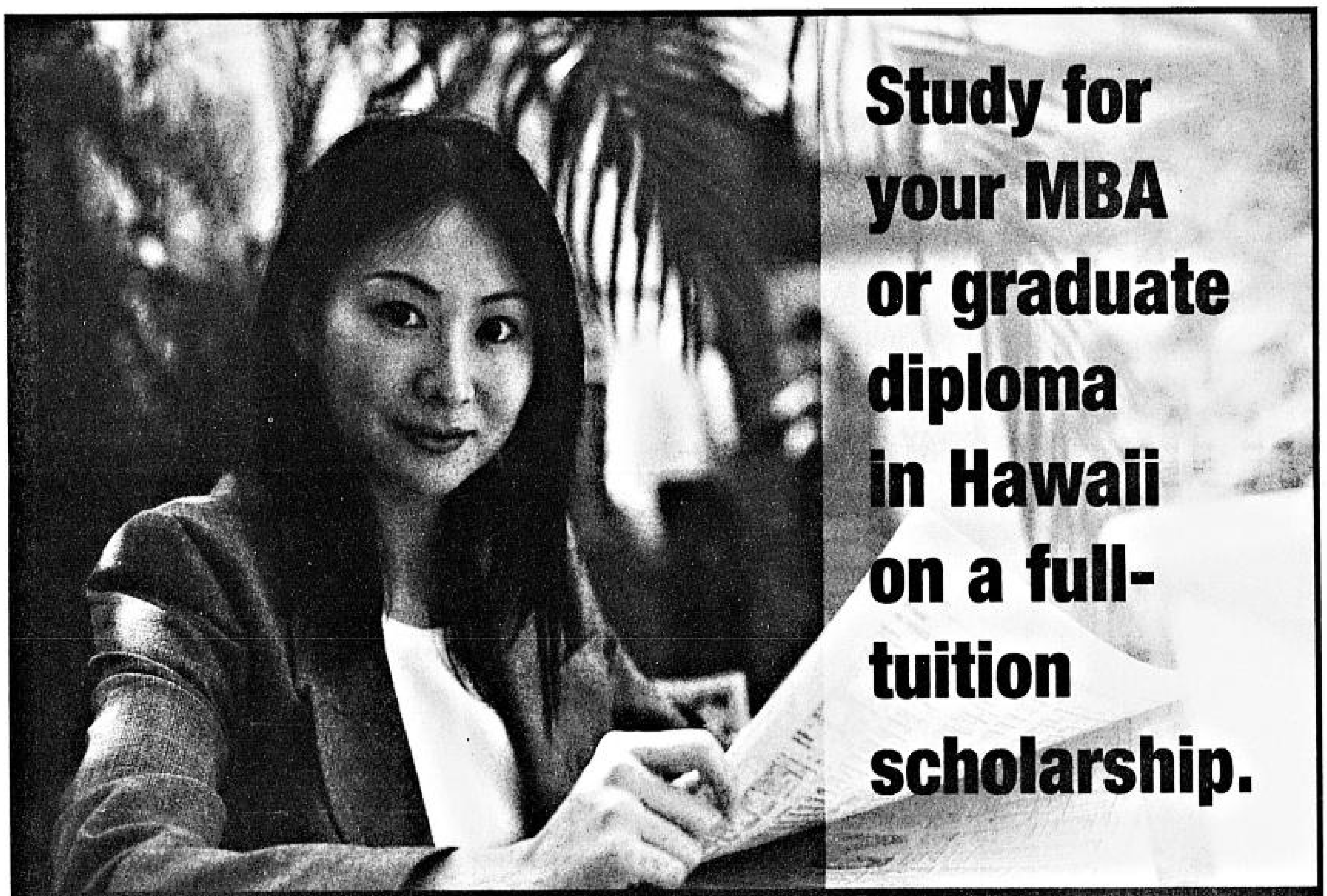
"We want to keep [our Philippine operations] a competence center and we plan to bring in RF technology from Europe to Cabuyao," Kleisterlee said.

Philips sees the Philippines both as a desirable base of operation as well as an important market with its population of more than 80 million, he added.

The company's other facility located at the Light Industry and Science Park II—Philips Semiconductors-Calamba—is involved in the assembly and testing of integrated circuits.

Royal Philips has invested $465 million in the country over the last 15 years.

According to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philip's Semiconductors Philippines projects a total export revenue of 1.1 billion euros in 2004.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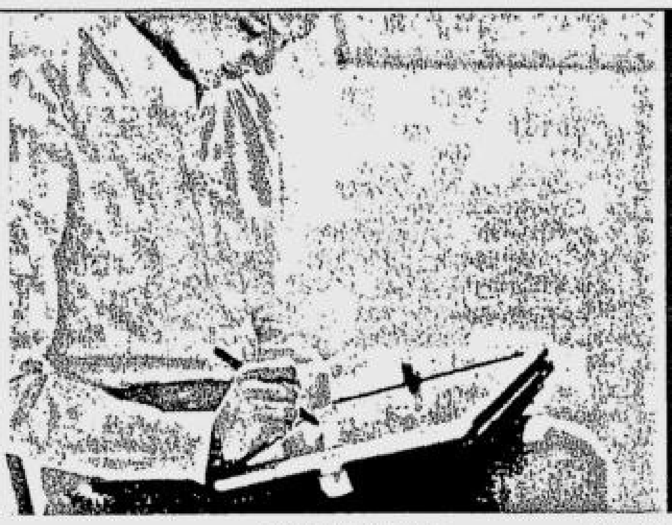

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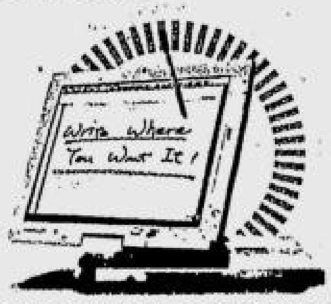

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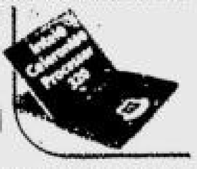

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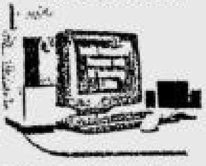

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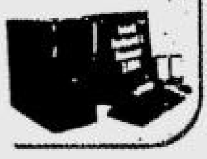

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Experts believe oil price bubble may have burst

AN EMPLOYEE of Russian oil company Yukos oversees the loading of rail tanker cars in Siberia to be sent to China. Although there are no real fuel shortages, such reports as Russian oil major Yukos about to lose its core Siberian units, has pumped up prices to unprecedented levels. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—A week ago, many energy traders and analysts spoke of $50-a-barrel oil as almost a sure thing. Now that crude futures have slid 11 percent from their recent peak, settling at about $43 on Friday, reaching the half-century mark anytime soon is considered more of a long shot.

More interesting, perhaps, is that over the past seven days, not much has really changed in terms of global supply and demand.

So, was there an oil-price bubble? And, if so, has it popped?

With hindsight proving to be quite good, most market participants and industry experts say this summer's rally fed heavily on fear-induced hype. Sure, a thin global supply cushion leaves little margin for error, but there are no fuel shortages. Meantime, high prices—gasoline peaked above $2 a gallon this summer—should gradually help bring more oil onto the market.

Yet while the retreat in prices may continue, experts said it is not because the building block of the bubble—the threat of a major supply mishap—is entirely gone or forgotten.

Instead, a subtle psychological shift appears to have taken place in the market, in which dire interpretations of global uncertainties have been toned down and the obsession with daily economic and political news has been layered with a longer-term perspective.

"It reflects the fact that some of the hysteria of the moment is diminishing," said William Ferer, president and director of a New Jersey-based firm that invests in the oil sector.

As the fear-factor recedes a little bit—thanks, in part, to a new peace deal that ended three weeks of fighting in Najaf, Iraq—market participants have come to the conclusion that prices soared too high, too fast late last week.

Conversations with brokers revealed that they are stepping back to assess potential supply problems more critically and on an individual basis, rather than lumping them all together, which tends to result in a more emotion-laden analysis.

"When prices were going extremely high, bearish indicators were ignored. And likewise, when prices started to fall this week, bullish factors were being ignored," said Yasser Elguindi, managing director at Medley Global Advisors in New York.

Many economists say the surge in oil demand, which caught the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and most others by surprise earlier this year, has begun to taper off as a result of soaring costs. Oil has cost more than $32 a barrel all year, a level many believe could be the norm for the foreseeable future. AP

Latest trade patterns seen to go on for years

IF YOU'RE a stock investor, you might be feeling like you're swimming against a current and not getting very far. The market's sideways moves since the start of the year have frustrated Wall Street professionals, too, leading some experts to think the current pattern is part of a much larger, bearish trend.

Adherents of this theory believe we're in the midst of a "secular bear market," a long-term downward move that could take years, even decades, to work itself out. The last secular bear market went from 1966 to 1982. It was followed by 18 years of robust gains, which ended with the dramatic bursting of the tech bubble. What we're seeing now, secular bears say, is a natural hangover—a corrective phase.

The best illustration of this is in the dramatic volatility of the Nasdaq composite index. It's currently down only 7 percent from where it began 2004. But earlier this month, the Nasdaq plummeted to its lowest point of the year, which was 18 percent below the high point it reached in January. The index has rebounded almost 6 percent in the last two weeks.

"It's logical ... It's playing out exactly as it should," said Gary Kaltbaum, president of a money management firm in Orlando, Florida. "The Nasdaq is faring the worst because that's where the most speculation, risk and overvaluations are. It will take a lot longer for the Nasdaq to correct. But this is all a normal process."

Others see more reason for optimism. Even though energy prices are higher, consumer prices overall aren't accelerating, inventories are just starting to build and corporate spending has only begun to turn around after several austere years. While the economy is growing at a slower pace than it has in years past, most indicators point up, said Jeffrey Kleintop, chief investment strategist with PNC Advisors in Philadelphia.

"I don't see any of the elements here that would result in even a cyclical bear market, much less a secular one," Kleintop said. "The problem is you don't really know you're in a secular bear market until you look back and say, 'Oh, we didn't go anywhere for 16 years.'" *AP*

Analysts: US economy growth slower than expected

WASHINGTON—The US economy, struggling under the weight of a bloated trade deficit, grew at a relatively modest 2.8 percent annual rate in the second quarter, a slower pace of expansion than previously thought.

The new reading on gross domestic product issued by the Commerce Department on Friday furnished fresh evidence that the business recovery hit a rut in the spring and early summer. The growth rate was weaker than the 3 percent figure first estimated a month ago and showed that the economy, which had been moving along at a decent clip, lost considerable momentum in the April-to-June quarter.

The economy had grown at a brisk 4.5 percent pace in the first three months of 2004. Gross domestic product measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is considered the broadest barometer of the economy's fitness.

The revised GDP figure for the second quarter, however, is slightly better than the 2.7 percent growth rate that some economists had forecast.

"Economic growth was below par—temporarily we think—but the expansion is still continuing," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

On Wall Street, stocks rose. The Dow Jones industrials gained 20 points and the Nasdaq was up 10 points in morning trading.

The latest snapshot of the economic activity comes as President George W. Bush gets geared up for the Republican convention, and the presidential election is just over two months away.

The economy's health and the availability of jobs have been key sparring issues between Bush and his Democratic opponent, John Kerry.

Bush says that making his tax cuts permanent will strengthen the economy and spur more job growth. Kerry, pointing to the sluggish labor market and the loss of 1.1 million jobs since Bush took office, says the president's tax cuts have mainly helped the wealthy and squeezed the middle class.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan has described the economy as hitting a "soft patch" in June. Even so, the Fed policy-makers on Aug. 10 raised short-term interest rates for the second time this year in a bid to keep future inflation under control. The Fed's most recent rate move pushed a key interest rate to 1.50 percent. Fed policy-makers at the time expressed confidence that economic activity would gain momentum in the months ahead.

Some private economists estimate that economic growth in the current July-to-September quarter could come in at around a 3.5 percent to 3.8 percent annual rate. Many believe the Fed will raise rates again at its Sept. 21 meeting.

Greenspan, in a speech Friday, didn't address the future course of interest rates. But he warned that the United States would face "abrupt and painful" choices if Congress would not move quickly to trim the Social Security and Medicare benefits promised to the baby boom generation.

Social Security is the US public pension system. Medicare is the federal health care insurance program for people aged 65 and over, and for the disabled.

Kerry's campaign said in a statement that the new GDP figures provide evidence that "George Bush is misleading Americans when he says that the economy has turned a corner."

"Our economy is once again on solid footing," Treasury Secretary John Snow said. "(But) there is still more work to do."

Soaring energy prices, meanwhile, have taken a toll on economic activity—aggravating the US trade deficit as the nation's foreign oil bill swelled and also putting a damper on consumers' willingness to spend.

The country's swollen trade deficit in the second quarter shaved 1.37 percentage points off the GDP, compared with a 0.76 percentage point reduction in the prior quarter. The second-quarter trade situation was worse than first thought—the biggest factor in the downward revision to second quarter GDP.

Consumers, whose spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity, had a tight grips on their pocketbooks and wallets in the spring, a key factor behind the second-quarter's overall slowdown. Consumer spending increased at an annual rate of 1.6 percent, the slowest pace since the second quarter of 2001, and down from a brisk 4.1 percent growth rate in the first quarter of this year.

The new estimate of consumer spending for the second quarter, however, marked a slight improvement from the one percent growth rate first estimated.

The 2.8 percent growth rate for the overall economy in the second quarter was the smallest gain since the first quarter of 2003, when the economy expanded at a 1.9 percent pace. *AP*

Yahoo cashes in $191M in Google stock

NEW YORK—Yahoo Inc. on Friday said it sold $191 million in Google Inc. stock during the latter's initial public offering, cashing in on some of the 2.7 million shares Google gave Yahoo this month to settle two disputes.

Yahoo sold 2.3 million of the Class A shares last week at $82.62 apiece. Google shares began trading on Aug. 19, following its IPO.

Yahoo spokesman Ruben Osorio wasn't willing to comment on the stock sale.

Google spokesman David Krane also declined to comment.

In exchange for giving Yahoo 2.7 million shares on Aug. 9, Google got a perpetual license to Yahoo's patent on matching online advertisements to Web-search results. Yahoo, of Sunnyvale, California, also agreed to drop another dispute over warrants to purchase shares that Google granted it under a partnership signed in 2000.

The stock of the Mountain View, California-based Internet search engine finished at $106.15 Friday, down $1.76, or 1.6 percent, on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Yahoo also converted 1.1 million Class B common shares into a like amount of Class A stock, leaving Yahoo with 1.48 million Class A shares.

Yahoo holds Class B stock, which has greater voting power, because it was an early investor in Google.

Yahoo disclosed the information in a filing Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Initially, Yahoo incorrectly reported that Michael J. Callahan, its general counsel, sold 2.3 million Yahoo shares. It later corrected the filing. *AP*

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102 (Old) Pasolo Road, Bgy. Pasolo
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Minimum Bid Price: P 11,454,100
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LA 253 sqm, FA 85 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price: P 790,500

BULACAN.
Lot 39 – Resd'l Lot, LA 2,200sqm
B S Aquino Ext, Bgy San Roque, Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,980,000
Lot 40 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 120sqm,
#33 Pearl St., Villa Cecilia Subd,Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price: P 900,000
Lot 41 – Resd'l Lot; LA 1,599 sqm
(Back of Public Market) Brgy. Poblacion, Bustos
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,439,100
Lot 42–Comm'l Lot; LA 2,118 sqm
(Beside Public Market) Brgy. Poblacion, Bustos
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,177,000
Lot 43 – Resd'l Lot; LA 684 sqm
L31–34 Salcedo & Ma. Socorro Sts, Green Breeze Village, Ph2 (Cityland), Brgy. Pulong Buhangin, Sta Maria
Minimum Bid Price: P 588,252
Lot 44 –Industrial w/ Imprvmnt
LA 9,098 sqm; FA 1,924sqm
L3 C Mercado St., Brgy. Tuktukan, Guiguinto
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Lot 45 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 424 sqm, FA 541 sqm
L35 Blk13 cor Duhat Road, Town & Country North Exec Vill Ph1, Brgy. Abangan Norte, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,816,000
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L4-A New York St, Meycauayan Industrial Subd. Ph3, Brgy. Pantok, Meycauayan.
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#1Road Runner St, St. Francis Subd, Brgy Pandayan, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,162,800
Lot 48 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,162sqm, FA 168 sqm
Municipal Rd, Brgy San Roque Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,648,999

CAVITE
Lot 49 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 61.75 sqm, FA 28 sqm
L21 B14 Universal St, Armstrong Village, Brgy Salawag, Dasmariñas
Minimum Bid Price: P 201,870

CAVITE
Lot 50 – Resd'l Lot, LA 177 sqm
L2 B25 New Bedford & Cambridge Sts, MetroSouthSubd, Bgy. BuenavistaGenTrias
Minimum Bid Price: P 354,000

LAGUNA
Lot 51 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 205 sqm; FA 135 sqm
L34 B14 Forest Drive cor Lakeside St., Country Homes, Brgy. Soro-soro, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: P 861,000
Lot 52- Resd'l Lot; LA 300 sqm
L23 B21 Rambutan St., Ceris II Subd., Brgy Canlubang
Miniumm Bid Price: P 600,000
Lot 53 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 132 sqm, FA 84 sqm
L23 Blk18 Isarog St., San Jose Village III, Brgy Binang, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: P 897,480
Lot 54 – Resd'l Lot; LA 180 sqm
L26 B2 Ph1-C Annex San Lorenzo South Subd,Bgy Malitlit Sta Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: P 535,500
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Minimum Bid Price: P 1,507,840
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Minimum Bid Price: P 621,300
Lot 57 – L51 Blk 14; LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 621,300
Lot 58 – Comm'l. w/ Imprvmnt
L491 J. Burgos St., Poblacion, Calamba;
LA 681 sqm, FA 604 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,717,000
Lot 59 – Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt;
LA 20,000 sqm, FA 108 sqm
L42 B-A-2 Curva, Sto. Tomas, Calauan
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,600,000
Caliraya Springs Golf Club, Brgy. Talaongan, Cavinti
Lot 60 – L18 Blk 22; LA 727 sqm
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Lot 62 – L23Blk 23; LA 717 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,484,190

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Minimum Bid Price: P 1,890,000
Lot 64 – L9 Blk1, LA 374 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,019,600
Lot 65 – L10 Blk1, LA 319 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,722,600
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Minimum Bid Price: P 855,000
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LA 240 sqm, FA 209 25 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price: P 1,800,000
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Microsoft faces another antitrust suit

SAN FRANCISCO—Several California cities and counties, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, on Friday sued Microsoft Corp., accusing the software giant of illegally charging inflated prices for its products because of monopoly control of the personal computer operating system market.

The local governments are asking a judge to make the case a class action on behalf of all California cities and counties. If a judge approves the lawsuit as a class action, and Microsoft is found liable, the Redmond, Washington-based company could be liable for many millions of dollars, perhaps billions.

"It's anticompetitive, it's predatory, and it denies consumers—in this case taxpayers—the benefits of innovation that a free marketplace should provide," said San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera. "Taxpayers no less than consumers have been victimized by Microsoft's misconduct, and we are seeking a just resolution with our lawsuit today."

Microsoft spokesperson Stacy Drake said the company's lawyers hadn't fully reviewed the lawsuit, but she defended the company's prices.

"We value our relationships with these cities and have been grateful for the opportunity to provide them with great software at reasonable prices," Drake said. "We firmly believe that we have provided very competitive prices and great solutions to our customers. In fact, we've built our business on delivering innovative software at low prices, and have been the market leader in reducing prices while increasing the value contained in software."

The lawsuit filed in San Francisco Superior Court is the latest in a string of similar actions brought against Microsoft across the country.

Last month, a San Francisco Superior Court judge granted final approval to a $1.1 billion settlement between Microsoft and California consumers who accused the company of violating state antitrust and unfair competition laws—nearly the same accusation made in the lawsuit filed Friday.

What's more, similar class-action lawsuits were filed in at least 16 other states on behalf of consumers. The company has agreed to settle 12 of those cases, including a $104-million settlement in Arizona and a $34-million settlement in Massachusetts.

They're separate from the antitrust case that Microsoft settled in 2002 with the Justice Department and several states. *AP*

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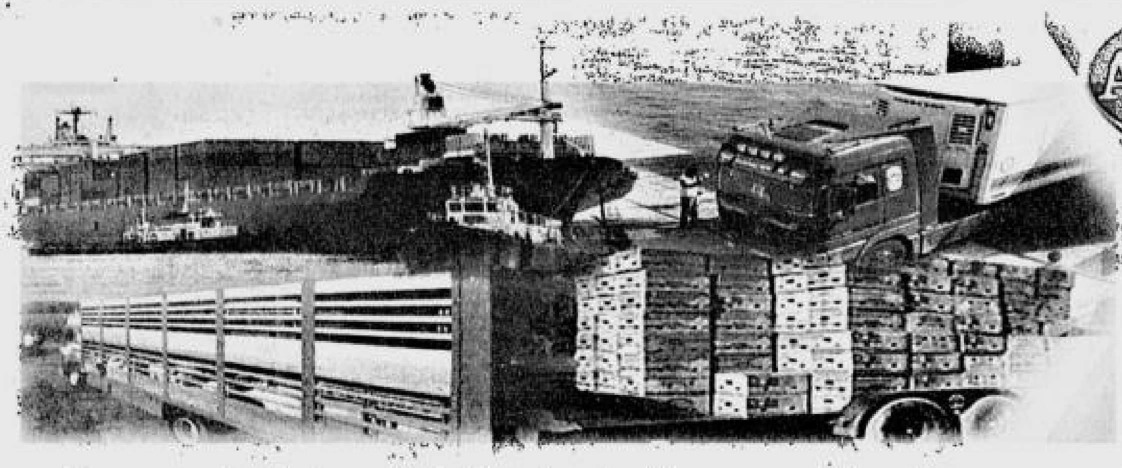

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October 14-16, 2004
World Trade Center
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SEMINARS (as of August 25, 2004)

October 14, 2004	
1:00 - 3:00	The Fourth Generation of Mico Toxin Binders by: Agrimate, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
	by: Monsanto Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*
3:30 - 5:30	*by:* Mingley Trades *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
	Control of Piglet Scours / Gamefowl Management and Conditioning *by:* Univet Agricultural Products *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*
October 15, 2004	
10:30 - 12:30	Salmonela Control in Farm and Feemill *by:* Diconex (Phils.), Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
10:30 - 3:00	• Knowing French Technologies in Agriculture and Services / Economique Mission *by:* Mission Economique in Manila • Slaughtering, Dressing and Feeding Equipment for the Poultry Industry *by:* Bayle and PAL • Supply and Distribution of Quality Products for the Food Industry *by:* Le Cellier and Fies des Lois • Preparation and Transformation of SASSO Chicken *by:* Pamora Farm • Growing SASSO Chicken in the Philippines *by:* SASSO • Duck Industry in France and What Can Be Done in the Philippines Using Quality Breeds *by:* Sepalm • Hog Industry: The French Expertise in Genetics *by:* France Hybrides • Equipment for the Grain Industry & Feeds Manufacturing *by:* Stolz Sequipag *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*
1:00 - 3:00	Using Organic Selenium in Swine and Poultry Diet *by:* Philchema, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
3:30 - 5:30	Use of Poultry Byproduct Meal in Pig Starters / Use of Poultry Byproduct Meal in Aquafeeds *by:* National Renderers Association (Hongkong) *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
October 16, 2004	
10:30 - 12:30	Organic Farming of Salad Greens *by:* Lee Masters Int'l. Systems *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*
1:00 - 3:00	Global Strategic Initiatives of Syngenta on Food Value Chain *by:* Syngenta Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

EXHIBITORS' LIST (as of August 25, 2004)

INDOOR: Abellar Eqpt •Abolliz Transport Group•Agri Specialist•Agrimate•Amanatosan Trading•Argent Lab.•Art, Inc.•Asia Giant Ent.•Atlanta Inds.•Belmont•Biomin Lab. Singapore•CEFN Phils.•Chia-Tung Phils.•Cryo Reefer Van•Cledacor Ent.•DA Regional Office•DA-NAFC•DAR•Diconex (Phils.)•Easy Bio Phils.•Eurasia Cassava Ventures•FBIC Reefer Van Corp.•Feedmix Specialist•First Phil. Scale•Floatech Int'l.•Grains Handlers Phils.•Inca Plastics•Interheat•Jeida Farm Supply Corp.•Jenn Yang Livestock Resources•L.A. Agro Ind'l. Technik•Lexber•Luz Farm•Manila Bulletin Publishing•Maysan Casting•MIK Phils.•Mingley Trades & Imports•Monsanto Phils.•New Tatson Weighing Eqpt.•Nuevo Milenio, Inc.•OPTA•P&J Agr'l. Trading•Paleeno AP, Inc •Philchema•PHILFOODEX, Inc.•Philmalay Poultry Breeders•PIC Phils.•Pixografx•Plastimer Ind'l. Corp.•Purina•Royal Vet•Shenzhen Starway Ent.•SMFI B-Meg•SMFI Vet Mod•Sparkler Far East•Syngenta Phils.•Tang-Cor Mfg.•Tefal Mktg.•United Vinyl•Univet Agr'l. Prods.•Vemaval•VIV Thailand•*FRENCH Pavilion:* Bayle/PAL•France Hybrides•Le Cellier/Fies Des Lois•Mission Economique•Pamora Farm•Sasso•Sepalm•Stolz Sequipag

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Affordable PCs made available to public teachers

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

DOMINGO Moscoso has been teaching technology and livelihood education for seven years at the Pasay North High School. He has been dreaming of owning his own computer one day.

"*Gusto kong magkaroon ng* computer *para sa anak ko, pero mahal* (I want to buy a computer for my child, but it is very expensive)," said Moscoso.

Moscoso and about 500,000 public school teachers will soon get a chance to own a personal computer through a program spearheaded by technology giants Microsoft and Intel in cooperation with the Department of Education and Asia United Bank.

The program, called "PCs for public school teachers," allows public school teachers to buy their own PCs at subsidized rates and on an installment basis for under P900 a month.

Teachers can purchase the computers and pay through salary deduction, said DepEd undersecretary Mike Luz.

Luz said most teacher's salary loans are tied to appliance purchases.

"Now they can purchase computers," Luz said.

While DepEd is endorsing the program, it is not forcing teachers to buy the computers.

"It is a personal purchase. So in this case, we're not the purchaser of the PCs," Luz explained.

Three payment schemes are being offered, according to Vic Lim, executive vice president of Asia United Bank, partner institution in this program.

For an 18-month installment scheme, teachers can pay a monthly rate of P1,370 including the 1.3-percent interest rate. For a 24-month installment plan, the monthly rate is P1,100, while the 36-month plan amounts to P823 a month, said Lim.

The program will be initially offered to public school teachers in regions 4a, III, and the National Capital Region. Lim said interested teachers can enroll in the program through Asia United Bank, which has been providing appliance loans to teachers.

Teachers will pay through salary deduction, he added.

"*Interesado ako diyan dahil* affordable (I'm interested now that it's affordable)," said Moscoso upon learning about the PCs for Public School Teachers. "At least *ngayon magagamit ko na yung tinuro sa amin ng* Intel *at* STI (Now we can apply what we've learned from the Intel and STI computer training we received)."

Microsoft and Intel have packaged an Intel Celeron-based computer preloaded with Windows XP Home edition and Microsoft Office suite. The PC comes with a 15-inch monitor and a modem.

Antonio Javier, Microsoft Philippines managing director, said the software company has offered a 90-percent discount for this program.

Samuel Jacoba, Microsoft Philippine Academic Affairs director, noted that public school teachers can upgrade the PCs for free, as soon as DepEd decides to upgrade. The software loaded into the PCs are part of the DepEd school licensing agreement with Microsoft, said Jacoba.

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CUEVAS, Mary Ann E.	BS Economics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
DOMINGO, Konde Luciano P.	Computer Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
EMPLEO, Enrico Carlo C.	BS Mechanical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
IQUIN, Jerick C.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of Santo Tomas
LACSON, Carlos Miguel M.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
PUNSALAN, Mary Ann A.	BS Management Economics	Ateneo de Manila University
REYES, Jenina Marie D.	BS Statistics	De La Salle University
ROGEL, Edward Andrew P.	BS Management Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
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CARANGUIAN, Luther Paul	DR. BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
GARRIDO, Jerwin Demy E.	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
VELASQUEZ, Mon Ruiz S.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman

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UMALI, Paolo Dominict E.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

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JAIM, Mark Erben A.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
JOVEN, Rafael Francisco LL.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Naga

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ESCLETO, Ceasar Ean S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mapua

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DATUKON, Norman Farrish A.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
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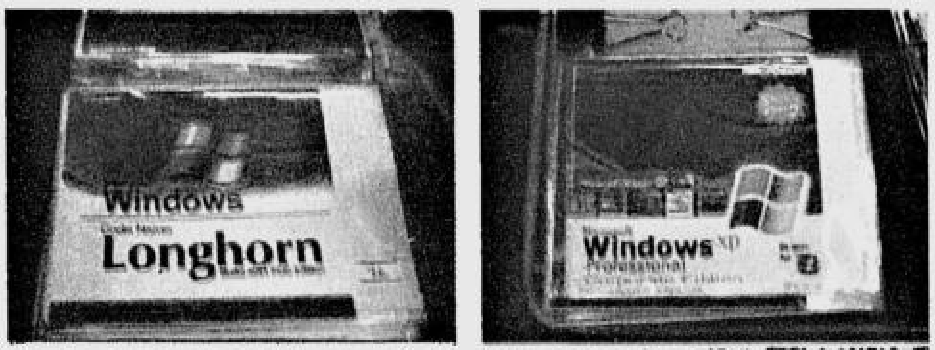

AN ILLEGAL copy of Microsoft's Longhorn operating system (top photo) is being sold at Panthip Plaza in Bangkok, Thailand for only 100 baht. Microsoft says Longhorn is not due for commercial release till 2005. Software piracy cost the Asia Pacific region more than $7.5 billion in lost revenues in 2002, according to the Business Software Alliance. At right, a buyer selects among several pirated software at Panthip Plaza.
PHOTOS BY JING GARCIA

Microsoft's Longhorn now selling illegally in Bangkok

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

MICROSOFT Corp.'s next-generation operating system codenamed "Longhorn" is now being sold illegally for only 100 baht in one of Bangkok's popular information technology shopping centers way ahead of the software's public debut in 2005.

The neatly packaged "pirated" version of Longhorn is being sold with other operating systems and software at Panthip Plaza, located just across the Pratunam district, a haven for bargain shoppers.

Browsing through the collection of pirated software being sold at an average of 100 baht a piece, one could also find Microsoft's Windows XP with SP2 package all in one CD. A Sun Microsystems Solaris 9.0 version was also available for the same price.

Software piracy thrives at Panthip Plaza, which ironically also sells legitimate software. One may even be surprised to see a store selling legitimate software beside another store hawking pirated software.

A Microsoft Philippines official warned that street copies of Longhorn are most likely fake since the software company is still developing the product.

"Longhorn is not yet out. The company itself tests any new software released by Microsoft. At this time, we have not tried it. So most likely, the Longhorn being sold are fake," said Mae Rivera, communications manager of Microsoft Philippines.

Rivera expressed surprised that illegal copies of Longhorn were being sold in the underground market of Bangkok.

"Are you kidding?" she reacted when informed of this discovery.

Early versions of Longhorn had been leaked on the Internet.

Rivera, however, insisted that Longhorn has not been released to the public.

"Obviously, the (pirated copies) are not real. People should buy the legitimate software," she said.

Microsoft plans to release Longhorn in 2005. But some industry reports said the software company would likely launch the software in 2006 due to development delays.

Based on early versions of Longhorn, the operating system improves on Windows XP. It will feature a new file system called "Windows Future Storage," an improved user interface and a DVD-burning component.

But since Longhorn is a "work in progress," Microsoft is still deciding on which features and components it will add to the current XP operating system.

Software piracy cost the Asia Pacific region more than $7.5 billion in lost revenues in 2002, according to the Business Software Alliance (BSA). In 2003, Asia was found to have the second highest piracy rate in the world, next to Western Europe.

In BSA's 2003 report, Asia placed fourth globally with 53 percent of the software installed in computers illegally acquired.

Vietnam and China were ranked as the biggest culprits worldwide, with piracy rates of 92 percent. Indonesia had the fourth highest piracy rate at 88 percent, while Ukraine had 91 percent.

Edu jeered, pelted as Greenhills raid turns violent

By Leo Magno

FOR Edu Manzano, chair of the Optical Media Board, it was part of the hazards of the job.

Manzano, along with at least two dozen armed agents of the National Bureau of Investigations, were jeered, pelted and taunted by vendors of pirated DVD movies when they conducted a raid at the Virra Mall Shopping Center in Greenhills, San Juan on Saturday.

The raid was quick—from 3:55 to 4:15 p.m.—and Manzano and his troop closed several stalls and hauled away dozens of sacks of pirated DVD movies. Along with the armed agents, at least two dozen more assisted the OMB chair in hauling away the DVDs.

But as they were going down the stairs to exit Virra Mall, Manzano and company were taunted by the vendors surrounding them.

"*Lumaban ka ng patas! Walang baril!* (Fight me fair and square without guns!)," cried one of the male DVD vendors.

"Idol, *babawian ka rin namin*! (Idol, we'll get you someday!)," shouted another.

Emotions were running high but Manzano and company ignored the taunts, until some of the vendors pelted the group with plastic cups and other items. This prompted Manzano and company to run back upstairs and accost the pelting vendors, with guns ready.

Even Manzano drew his gun.

As dozens of soldiers toting rifles and pistols rushed upstairs, women started screaming, vending tables were knocked over, vendors and shoppers alike started scampering in all directions and the NBI agents were shouting and giving orders.

Some of the vendors confronted the soldiers to give them a piece of their mind. After a brief scuffle, at least one male vendor was wounded, blood dripping down his shirt. He was taken in for questioning.

But the taunts and jeers did not end. Manzano put his gun away and told the crowd: "*Gusto niyong manakit? Ginagawa lang po namin ang trabaho namin* (You want to hurt someone? We're just doing our job)."

Manzano was escorted out of the mall by the armed men, and the vendors booed them all the way to the exit.

The OMB was created February this year to succeed the Videogram Regulatory Board. Its mandate is to regulate digital content in optical media such as DVDs and CDs, including movies, audio, software and video games. Greenhills is known as Manila's mecca for pirated digital content.

Manzano has been leading an active advocacy against piracy, and has been conducting raids in an effort to stamp out this illegal practice. He and the OMB, however, have their work cut out for them as raids are proving to be mere temporary solutions to piracy. In fact, by 5 p.m. some of the pirated DVD vending stalls that were closed were opened anew—a mere 45 minutes after the raid.

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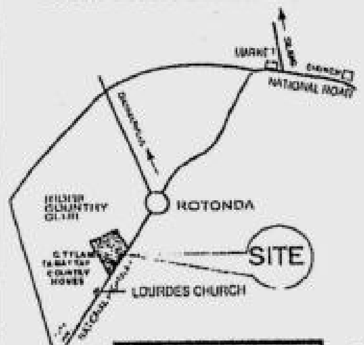

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HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

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   Combined Price Php 2.4 million
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   Lot 2 - 383 sqms
   Lot 3 - 383 sqms
   Lot 4 - 375 sqms
   Lot 5 - 393 sqms
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   Price Php 2.3 million
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   Price Php 1.4 million
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ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that IFC Development Corporation (formerly: Industrial Finance Corporation) is in the process of reconstituting the list of its stockholders and their shareholdings in preparation for its liquidation and distribution of its remaining net assets following the revocation of its Certificate of Registration on May 26, 2003 by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Accordingly all stockholders of IFC Development Corporation are requested to present their stock certificate/s for validation of their shareholdings in said corporation, not later than September 15, 2004, to:

Atty. Rosula P. Lowenko
IFC Development Corporation
7/F, Yuchengco Tower I,
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City

(Sgd.) SENEN D. BACCAY
Corporate Secretary

(PDI- Aug 23, 30 & Sept 6 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an "as-is-where-is" basis and as one whole lot, the following National Government (NG)/National Power Corporation (NPC) properties:

DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE PRICE
Two parcels of land with a total area of 6,233 square meters, located at No. 1, Don Bosco St., Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati City	P 115,310,500.00

Sealed bids will be received on **Thursday, September 30, 2004** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P 10,000.00.

In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the subject assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department

IN THE MATTER OF :
:
DEVELOPMENT BANK OF : LICENSING OF ALTERNATIVE
THE PHILIPPINES : TRADING SYSTEM (ATS)
(Registrant) :
x-------------------------------x

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that on August 12, 2004 a sworn registration form was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES for the registration and licensing of the Marketplace for SME Receivables Purchases (M4SME-RP) as an Alternative Trading System (ATS).

Based on the documents filed, the following persons appear to be its officers and directors:

Name	Position
VITALIANO N. NAÑAGAS II	Chairman
SIMON R. PATERNO	President/CEO
ALEXANDER R. MAGNO	Director
FERNANDO T. BARICAN	Director
FLORO F. OLIVEROS	Director
DANILO A. SONGCO	Director
ELIGIO V. JIMENEZ	Director
JAIME S. DELA ROSA	Director
RICARDO G. NEPOMUCENO, JR.	Director

SO ORDERED.
EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
August 16, 2004.

For the Director:

MERLE JOY B. PASCUAL
Assistant Director

(PDI–Aug. 23 & 30, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2005:

SERVICE CONTRACT	ALLOCATION	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE
1. Canteen Concessioning/Catering		Sept. 23, 2004, 2 PM
2. HMO	Php 13,600,000.00	Sept 15, 2004, 11 AM
3. Hardware Maint. Svc of Computer Equipment & Peripherals	Php 945,000.00	Sept 16, 2004, 3 PM
4. Internet Subscription	Php 810,000.00	Sept 21, 2004, 10 AM
5. Rental of Copier Machine		Sept. 22, 2004, 10 AM
6. Rental of Shuttle Bus	Php 1,900,000.00	Sept. 22, 2004, 11 AM
7. Printing & Binding requirements		Sept. 21, 2004, 11 AM
8. Subscription to Cable TV	Php 344,000.00	Sept. 17, 2004, 10 AM
9. Subscription to Local/Int'l Newspapers & Magazines		Sept. 15, 2004, 10 AM
10. Supply of Gasoline		Sept. 16, 2004, 2 PM

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting August 30 - Sept. 13, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contract also, bid bulletins on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provision of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 30, Sept. 6, 2004)

Let's Study in Japan

From
the People of Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2005-2006

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (2 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   2-1. *(for public sector)*
      -Public Administration (8 persons)
      -Economics (7 persons)
      -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
      -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 35 years old as of April 1, 2005. Those who were born on/after April 2, 1970. (Age limit is subject to change without prior notice. Please confirm with JICE Office or web site.)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent.
4) Work experience At least 2 years of work experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2005

Application

- Applicants must complete Application Documents.
- Application Documents are distributed at
  - JICE JDS Project Office, or
  - can be downloaded at http://www.jice.org/english/

Selection Procedures

- The First Selection
  Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.

- SCS Interview
  Successful candidates of the 1st selection process should undergo SCS* Interview.
- SCS: Special Committee on Scholarships

- The Second Selection
  - Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.

- The Third Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2005.

- The Fourth Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 17:00hrs on October 22, 2004
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be permitted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
* Unit 2008, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeno Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
* TEL: 02-757-4990
* Official Web Site: http://www.jice.org/english/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Special Committee on Scholarships)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. 2004-024

PD Ref. No.: PB-040415-LE0051 / PR No.: GSD-04-008482

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION(Transco), BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility that are not currently National Power Corporation (NPC)/TransCo Contractor for Security Services who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; OR
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; OR
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; OR
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); OR
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:
   SCHEDULE I – TWO (2) YEAR CONTRACT TO COVER ALL REQUIREMENT FOR THE WORKS CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION OF TRANSCO MAIN BUILDING, POWER TRAINING CENTER AND PREMISES INCLUDING INDOOR PLANTS/ LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE OF TRANSCO MAIN BUILDING, POWER TRAINING CENTER AND TRANSCO BUILDINGS 2 AND 3 (NCC & SO) AND OTHER SERVICES RELATED TO HOUSEKEEPING AND UTILITY WORKS.
   SCHEDULE II – TWO (2) YEAR CONTRACT TO COVER ALL REQUIREMENT FOR THE WORKS CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION TRANSCO BUILDINGS 2 AND 3 (NCC & SO) AND PREMISES INCLUDING ALLIED MANPOWER SERVICES OF TRANSCO MAIN BUILDING, POWER TRAINING CENTER, AND BUILDINGS 2 & 3 AND OTHER SERVICES RELATED TO HOUSEKEEPING AND UTILITY WORKS.
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder is specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued to prospective bidders.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid for Schedule I is *P10,000,000.00* and for Schedule II is *P10,000,000.00* from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **August 16, 2004 to September 13, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND Pesos (P3,000.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 01, 2004, 3:00 PM** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **1:30 pm on September 15, 2004** at the Admin Conference room, G/F TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations or R.A. 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – August 16 & 30, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A DOMESTIC AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER
CAB Case No. EP-24970

CTSI LOGISTICS PHILS., INC.,
Petitioners
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that CTSI LOGISTICS PHILS., INC. has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for authority to operate as a domestic airfreight forwarder. The hearing on the above-entitled case is scheduled on 03 September 2004 at 10:00 AM at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which proceeding the applicant shall present the relevant evidence.

Under Section 16 of R.A. 776, the applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation or have copies thereof and the application sent to all domestic airfreight forwarder, either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application must file their written opposition on or before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file their opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

12 August 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) KATHERINE M. LEGARDA
Hearing Officer

Copy furnished
Ms. Aurora G. Yambot
Division Manager
CTSI Logistics Phils., Inc
Unit ABC Columbia Airfreight

(PDI – Aug 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

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CONGRATULATIONS HCG FAMILY!
THE INAUGURATION OF 2nd KILN
MAY 06, 2004 / 9:00 AM

HCG Bathroom Fixtures inaugurates the lighting of its 2nd kiln last May 6, 2004. Taking part in the ceremonial lighting of its kiln were (from left to right): Vice President Steve Chien, Senior Advisor Raul Boncan, HCG Chairman Roger Chiu, Director Andrew Gotianum Filinvest; and guest distributors, Teofilo Co of PFC, James Lee of Citihardware, William Belo of Wilcon Builder's, and Monique Chung of MC Home Depot. True to its commitment to Style and Satisfaction, the additional kiln promises an increase in production capacity of HCG from 800,000 to 1.6M pieces of bathroom water closets. HCG makes the high-quality and leading bathroom fixtures in the Philippines.

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RUTH R. TALAVERA

Peacefully joined our Creator
on August 28, 2004 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Becky** and **Doy**, **Mon** and **Myrna**; grandchildren **Choy**, **Bingbing**, **Dubble**, **Koko** and **Benjo** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on September 02, 2004.

"Though you joined the Creator twenty-first years ago,
you will always be in our hearts and mind.
We love you Dad."

Lovingly Remembered

on his Twenty-first Death Anniversary

Gregorio S. Licaros, Sr.

Former Governor Central Bank of the Philippines
1970 - 1981
of Meycauayan, Bulacan
who passed away on August 30, 1983.

His wife (†), children, grandchildren and relatives, request friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be offered today, August 30, 2004 at the following churches:

MEYCAUAYAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Meycauayan, Bulacan	7:30 AM
POLO CATHOLIC CHURCH, Valenzuela, Bulacan	6:30 AM
MALOLOS CATHEDRAL, Malolos, Bulacan	7:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 AM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 AM
STO. DOMINGO CHURCH, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	6:30 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM
MANILA CATHEDRAL, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 AM
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH, Intramuros, Manila	7:00 AM
ERMITA PARISH CHURCH, Ermita, Manila	6:30 AM
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, San Marcelino Street, Manila	6:30 AM
STA. CRUZ CHURCH, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 AM
MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Malate, Manila	6:00 AM

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

EUGENIO B. REBULADO

Peacefully joined the Lord
on August 28, 2004
at the age of 77.

His remains lie in state at
Arlington Memorial Chapels,
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on
September 4, 2004,
2 pm at the Eternal Garden,
Baesa, Kalookan City.

In Loving Memory

Twentieth Death Anniversary of

CLEMENTE S. GATMAITAN, SR.

M.D., M.P.H.

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 30, 1984 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Felicula Campos**; children **Natividad** and **Deogracias**, **Clemente, Jr.** and **Concepcion**, **Escolastico** and **Erna**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister and other relatives request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered today, August 30, 2004 at:

6:00 A.M.,	Sacred Heart Parish Church, Scout Ybardolaza, Kamuning, Q.C.
7:00 A.M.,	St. Paul de Apostle Church, Mother Ignacia St., Q.C.
12:00 P.M.,	St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth Avenue, Q.C.
6:00 P.M.,	Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

DIONISIO "TOTOY" K. ONG

of Wheeler Auto Supply, Lucena City

peacefully joined our Lord on August 26, 2004
at the age of 62.

His parents **Mr. & Mrs Yu Hong Sia**, wife **Ligaya**, children **Maribeth** and **Rommel**, **Willerson**, **Jefferson**, **Jeannalyn** & **John Froilan** & **Jayson**; brothers **Cesar**, **Teddy** & **Willy** (†); sisters **Lily**, **Tessie** & **Marilou**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Rosary Chapel in Lucena City.

Interment will be at the Heaven's Garden Memorial Park, Diversion Road, Brgy. Mayuwi, Tayabas, Quezon after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ENGR. ATILANO Ab. VILLAOS

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 29, 2004 at the age of 73.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Sept. 3, 2004
after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
His cremated remains will be
transferred to Lopez, Quezon.

The Congregation of the Siervas de San Jose is requesting for prayers for

MO. MARIA (VALENTINA) AYERRA, SSJ

who, at 94 years of age and 71 years of consecrated life, peacefully joined our Creator on August 27, 2004.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family School Chapel, 66 Maginhawa St., U.P. Village, Quezon City.

A Mass of the Resurrection will be held on August 30, 2004, 1:30 p.m. at the HFS Chapel. Interment will immediately follow at the La Loma Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Programme (BIARSP), a rural development programme, is assisting the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the successful and efficient implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). One of the commitments of the Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) of BIARSP is to provide DAR and other partners with a comprehensive institutional capacity building investment. Hence, it invites eligible persons, institutions or companies to express their interest in providing training activities in the following fields:

- Project Cycle Management
- Proposal Writing and Design
- Project Assessment and Evaluation
- Team Building and Value Formation
- Organizational Development
- Entrepreneurial Management
- Community Development Planning
- Computer Skills Enhancement

Interested parties must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services sought (CV; previous trainings conducted; calendar of training activities for the remaining of 2004 and thereafter; training modules of one or more of the above-mentioned areas, etc.)

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by September 15, 2004:

The Belgian Programme Coordinator
BIARSP-TSCO
2nd Floor Sol y Mar Bldg.
Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street
6200 Dumaguete City
Negros Oriental
Tel. #s: (035) 225-5929-30; 225-8661; 422-7459
Fax.#: (035) 422-7736
Email: tsco@biarsp.org

(PDI–Aug 29 & 30, 2004)

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- ➢ For site inspection and other particulars, kindly contact Ms. Valerie R. Altura of the General Affairs Department, anytime during office hours at Tel. No. 848-02-31 to 36 local 146.

Kepco Phils. Corp.

NOTICE of INVITATION to APPLY for ELIGIBILITY and to BID
NOTICE To The BIDDERS

The Cagayan de Oro City Water District, Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental caused the publication of a notice of invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid, as follows:

Project Description
- a. Financing, design, construction, operation, maintenance and management of the Water Plant.
- b. Source for water supply must be tapped from the surface waters of the Cagayan de Oro River or its tributaries.
- c. Project must ensure sustainable bulk water supply for 25 years.

Production Capacity Required
- a. 50,000 cubic meter per day not later than December 31, 2006.
- b. 100,000 cubic meter per day not later than December 31, 2010.
- c. 150,000 cubic meter per day not later than December 31, 2016.

Water Price/Rates
- (a) The bulk water shall be sold to COWD at a fixed price for the first 3 years operation
- (b) The initial water bid price (1st 3 years of operation) must not be more than the prevailing minimum residential selling price (P11.00) of COWD.
- (c) Water price adjustment shall be allowed after the 3rd year of operation.

Sealed applications for eligibility and to bid for

The Bulk Water Supply for the Cagayan de Oro City Water District

Shall be received at the Office of BAC Secretariat - BWSP, Cagayan de Oro City Water District, Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City on *October 14, 2004* at 2:00 p.m. For purposes thereof, the bid *documents* shall, upon payment of the non-refundable registration fee of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)**, the available on *September 03, 2004* at the *Cagayan* de Oro City Water District, Cagayan de Oro City.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on *October 01, 2004* at 2:00 p.m. at the COWD Training Room, Cagayan de Oro City Water District, Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City. All clarifications or inquiries in relation to the Bid Documents shall be made/furnished in writing before or during the said pre-bid conference.

The Cagayan de Oro City Water District reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, COWD is neither obliged to provide any reasons for the rejection of any bid. In the sole opinion of the Cagayan de Oro City Water District, the award for the Bulk Water Supply Project shall be granted to the most complying and most advantageous bid to the Cagayan de Oro City Water District.

All communications must be addressed to:

ENGR. GASPAR D. GONZALES, JR.
General Manager
Cagayan de Oro City Water District
Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City,
Misamis Oriental, Philippines

(Sgd.) **RAY G. TABLAN**
Chairman - BAC (BWSP)

(PDI - Aug 30 & Sept 7, 2004)

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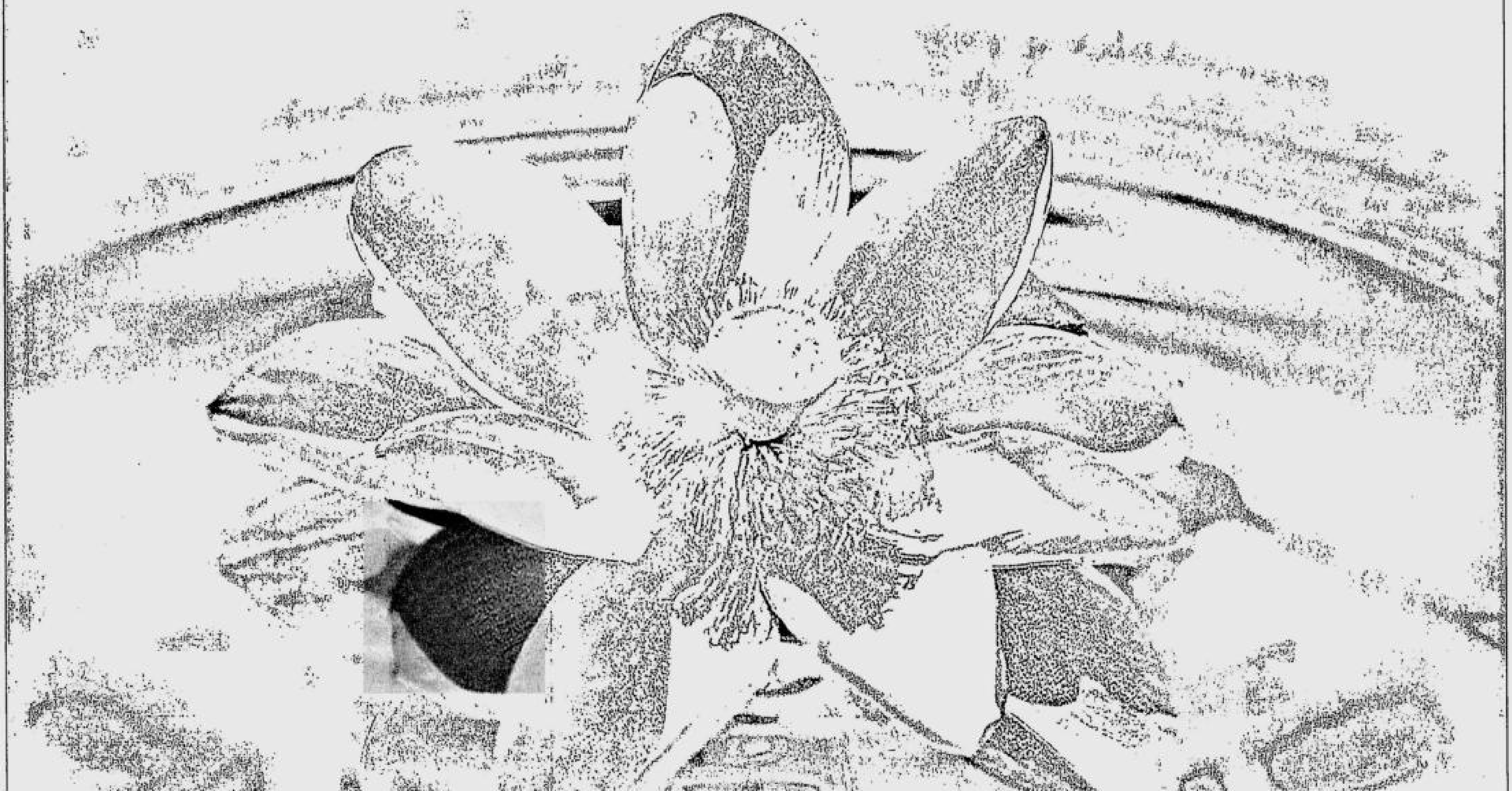

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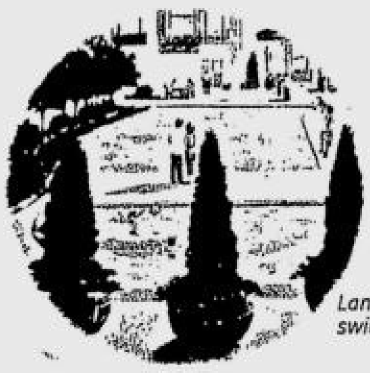

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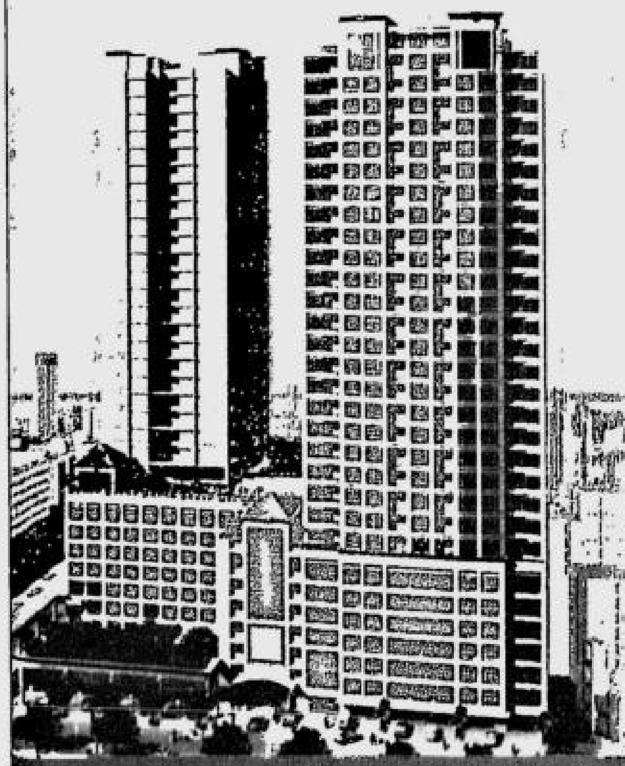

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Giuliani talks on timeless leadership principles

By Butch Jimenez
Contributor

I HAVE always believed that leadership is best tested by crisis.

And if the biggest crisis in recent history was the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States, then Rudy Giuliani, New York City's former mayor, was handed the biggest test of leadership of his life, which he most certainly passed.

What thoughts crowded Giuliani's mind the moment he was advised of the attack? How did this man rise above his own sense of grief and provide New York with the leader that the stricken city needed as its citizens—and entire world—struggled to comprehend the sheer terror of what had just ripped through their lives?

I asked myself these and many other questions as I watched him lead the city from shock and horror to pride and glory.

Glued to CNN for days after Sept. 11, I witnessed how Giuliani orchestrated the rescue and relief operations. I watched him give his daily news conference, a reassuring but resolute presence in the face of unspeakable tragedy.

Not surprisingly, I became a fan.

So when I found out Giuliani would headline a leadership conference in Singapore, I made sure I was in the same room to listen firsthand to this remarkable leader who was thrust onto the world stage like no other mayor before him.

Prior to Sept. 11, 2001 Giuliani was the mayor of New York City, a position that commands respect in its own right. Yet his actions on that fateful day elevated him, transforming him into the "mayor of the world."

It wasn't just the New Yorkers and Americans who watched him on TV and looked to him to provide them the leadership they needed. The rest of the world did, too.

In Singapore, over 700 people from all over the world paid thousands of Singapore dollars to hear him speak. Three years after the tragedy, Giuliani's appeal has not waned.

I don't know of many mayors who can command such interest or hold an audience in the palm of his hand. But Giuliani can. Primarily because he just doesn't talk about leadership, he lives it.

Recounting the events of that day, Giuliani remembered that as he was traveling to the attack site, he was told that it was just a small twin prop plane that hit the World Trade Center.

It was only when he arrived at the site that he saw the magnitude of the destruction.

As the skyscrapers came crashing down, Giuliani's biggest leadership challenge came to fore.

In a moment so catastrophic and complex, Giuliani called on simple, yet timeless leadership principles to pull the city out of the crisis: optimism, calmness, courage, preparedness and faith in God.

Light of optimism

Amid despair, panic and turmoil, he recounted, a leader must be an optimist. A leader must be the beacon of hope that people can follow.

"People follow hope, people follow dreams and people follow solutions," said Giuliani. "And only an optimist can provide that, never a pessimist."

He remembers that in the days after Sept. 11, he drew strength from Winston Churchill, perhaps Britain's greatest statesman and prime minister, who provided a sense of optimism and hope to an entire generation as the Nazi's bombed England on a daily basis.

But he also drew lessons from a more personal source, his father.

Giuliani credits his father for teaching him the importance of being calm. In the chaos wrought by the attacks, calmness was a virtue in short supply.

Amid the chaos, says Giuliani, only the calmest person can come up with solutions. And in the end, he says, "People follow the leader with the answers."

Courage and conviction

Courage, says Giuliani, is another virtue of a leader.

While Giuliani believes that courageous leaders experience fear just like everybody else, it is their acceptance of the existence of fear and the struggle to overcome it that sets them apart.

"Never allow fear to inhibit you from doing what needs to be done," said the former New York City mayor. Had Giuliani succumbed to fear, he would have shirked away from the Herculean task of pulling New York City to its feet in the wake of the attacks.

Giuliani believes that when a crisis hits, a leader must know what he stands for, or else he cannot lead others, others will lead him.

Global Brand Forum Singapore 2004

GIULIANI

Simply put, a leader must be founded on something he truly believes in that will provide him the strength to move forward, no matter how bleak the task at hand.

Recounting his personal experience on Sept. 11, he held on to the conviction that "people living in freedom are better off than people living in fear and oppression."

Since America was built on freedom, he had unwavering faith that in time, they would rise from the attack, rebuild the city and come out victorious.

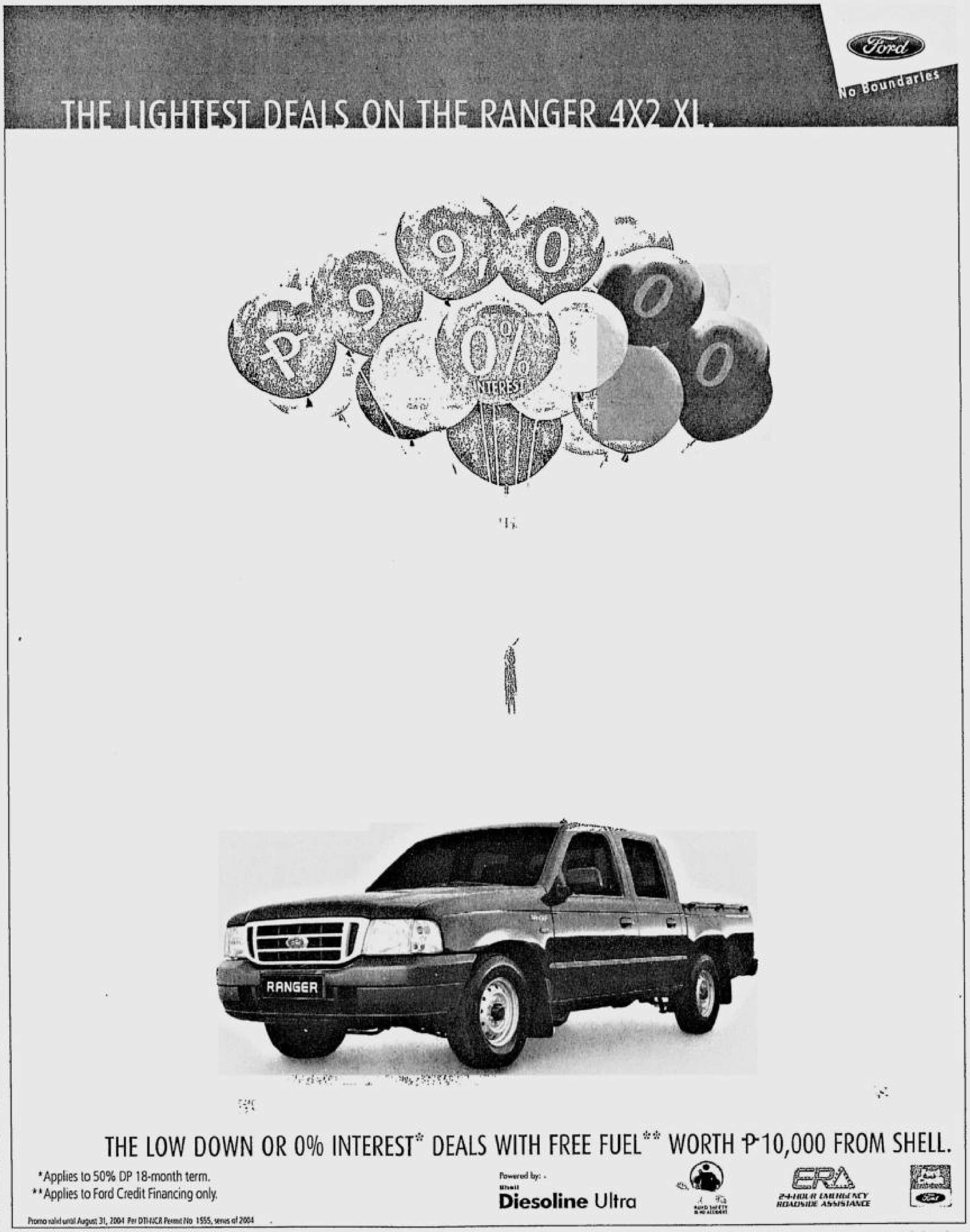
His belief was proven true. Less than a year after the attack, New York City was back on its feet, stronger than it was before.

Be prepared

Giuliani underscored the importance of a leader embracing the discipline of relentless preparation.

He paid tribute to his mentor, US district judge Lloyd MacMahon for whom he worked as a clerk after graduating magna cum laude

GIULIANI/B2-2



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Earn respect to get employees to achieve results

By Amy R. Remo

RUBIO

RESPECT does not come with position.

Consolidated Industrial Gases Inc. general manager Emmanuel V. Rubio believes that this maxim is one of the first things that a leader must remember when dealing with his group.

"Respect comes with your achievements and the way you treat your people. Treat them with respect and most likely, they'll reciprocate it," says Rubio, who heads both the electronics and process gas solutions units of CIGI since 2001.

CIGI, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Kingdom's BOC group, is the country's leading industrial gas manufacturer and supplier.

It is capable of producing more than 100 million cubic centimeters of gas per year from its two production sites in Apalit, Pampanga and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Rubio, who joined CIGI in 1987, says that his desire to earn his people's respect forced him to get along well with people of various nationalities, cultures and backgrounds.

One memorable instance, according to Rubio, was when he was assigned as marketing manager of SIG, a Cebu-based industrial gas company, which was acquired by CIGI in 1995.

SIG retained most of its senior managers, most of whom were in their 40s. He was only 31 at that time.

"It's difficult to work with and lead people who are older, especially when it comes to changing their work culture," says Rubio.

His inability to speak Bisaya did not help his cause.

Rubio relates that when he goes to the shop floor, people would speak in Bisaya. They could've been talking about him, but he did not mind.

Rubio took it all in stride and summoned all his people and influence skills to get things done.

"I can't enforce the fact that I'm the manager. Otherwise, they'll hate me even more. You have to influence, convince and lead by example," says Rubio.

He says he deals with other nationalities like the Chinese, Japanese, Thais and Indonesians by changing his style

EARN/ B2-4

Manila Megalopolis 2020

(Second of two parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox, Jr.

THIS paper addresses the "pull and push" factors and immigration in Metro Manila.

The project aims to appropriately apply the best practices in urban planning, real estate development and urban governance elsewhere in the world.

Strategies

We have identified 20 action plans in connection with the concept plan 2020:

1. Create urban development corridors for urban development and "wedges"—areas between these corridors—for agriculture and tourism.
2. Link roadways, ports and airports to improve regional, international and global competitiveness.
3. Clustering cities/growth centers linked by development corridors for increased competitiveness.
4. Enable information and communications (ICT) development in growth centers like Clark and Subic bases.
5. Alleviate poverty.
6. Enhance urban governance.
7. Improve metropolitan/regional cooperation between and among barangays, towns, cities, provinces and regions.
8. Provide infrastructure to connect cities and growth centers.
9. Reform obsolete planning and development practices, zoning and deed restrictions.
10. Innovate the educational system. Modernize and innovate taxable world-class university belts in growth centers—with athletic fields and research laboratories—that can spill over into business parks.
11. Improve mobility and access.
12. Protect the environment.
13. Renew and redevelop urban areas.
14. Undertake cultural development.
15. Encourage cooperation among the government, the business sector and civil society.
16. Undertake social development.
17. Redevelop areas in former military bases and industrial areas.
18. Develop entertainment areas, provide higher density residential, commercial/retail redevelopment, more open spaces and more port development.
19. Encourage wider citizen participation.
20. Make the waterfront the front-door of development (not "back of the house").

Wedges will be created to maintain agricultural, agro-tourism, eco-tourism, and prime agricultural areas

The relationship between agricultural and urban areas will be strengthened rather than foster the present parasitic, host-dependent kind.

High value crops and modern farms will be created ("agro-politan" approach to development).

The development strategies will try to address national goals, while at the same time introducing better security, efficiency and global competitiveness.

The plan is proposing a "Vision 2020"—including a Pan-Philippine railway system and 100 new towns on the Pacific coast in Luzon, Visayas and toward the Sulu Sea in Muslim Mindanao.

The strategy of urban corridors and agriculture and tourism wedges is for a more balanced interrelationship between the urban and rural population centers, the countryside and hinterlands, tourism, agriculture, and the overall development of the environment.

Conclusion

The study has shown that there is so much left to be planned and developed in the Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog regions and to be redeveloped in Metro Manila.

Connectivity integrating the metropolis would help realize the high development potential of the expanded metropolitan area.

The best practices in urban planning and real estate development will stimulate new growth and development and rehabilitate older cities.

The towns, cities, provinces and regions are victims of obsolete planning laws, zoning codes and subdivision deed restrictions.

Exclusionary zoning has fragmented the metropolis, disconnected communities and segregated places of work from places of residence.

The large single family homes in the inner cities encourage air pollution by preventing more families to live closer to the central business districts, thereby resulting in a more urban sprawl, encroaching into farms and forests.

The former US military bases Clark and Subic toward the Pacific Coast in Dingalan can act as international hubs and growth centers to spur new development outside Metro Manila.

The development corridors will open up the Pacific Ocean as a new gateway and create opportunities in the less developed eastern seaboard.

Urban development corridors and growth centers in the extended metropolis can act as counter magnets and decongest Metro Manila.

They will alleviate urban issues and challenges of Metro Manila and prepare the older cities for urban renewal and redevelopment to accommodate re-investment, making these more habitable and competitive.

Agricultural production will have easier access to markets with the development corridors and growth centers. Tourism destinations will also become more accessible.

With economic development and wealth creation, jobs and a more equitable distribution of income will be more attainable.

MANILA/ B2-4

Giuliani . . .

From page B2-1

from New York University Law School.

MacMahon taught him to prepare for any possible eventuality that could happen inside the courtroom.

"For every hour in the courtroom," MacMahon told Giuliani, "you have to prepare for at least four hours."

Preparation included research, practice, drills, tests, memorization, role playing, and situational analysis. MacMahon taught Giuliani that relentless preparation prepares one for situations that may blindside you.

As mayor of New York City, Giuliani prepared for every possible disaster or crisis imaginable.

He had a plan for every form of hijacking, robbery, hostage-taking situations, subway explosions, multiple car crashes, blackouts, brownouts, computer crashes, assassination attempts on VIPs, earthquakes, floods and even a nuclear attack.

However, Giuliani admits that the scenario of 747s being used as missiles to crash into the Twin Towers was not in his disaster rule book.

He recalled telling his team, "We are not ready for this, and we are going to have to figure this out as we go along."

In hindsight however, he realized that his commitment to relentlessly prepare for other disaster scenarios prepared him for 9/11.

"If you prepare for everything you can think of, even if you face the unimaginable, you'll be prepared for it because it'll be a variation of whatever else you have prepared for," explained Giuliani.

Faith

As vocal as Giuliani was about his mentors like Churchill, Ronald Reagan, his father and Lloyd MacMahon, the mayor was also vocal about his faith in God.

One of the core beliefs was his conviction that God had a plan. "I believe in God and I believe there is a plan for all this," declared Giuliani.

As shrieks of panic filled the New York air, Giuliani's constant prayer to God was simple, yet acknowledged the power of a higher being.

Giuliani's prayer was, "Dear God, I just made 10 decisions. I don't know if I made the right ones, but please make them right."

Giuliani shared many more insights on leadership. But what kept the audience in awe, was not what he was saying, but the realization of all that he has done.

His talk was more experiential and far from scholarly, yet Giuliani commanded respect and admiration because he didn't just talk about the principles of leadership. He actually lived them.

I figured that this may be the only time I'd ever see Giuliani face-to-face, so I just asked him one question during the short question and answer session that followed.

"Fifteen, twenty years from now, when the world has changed far beyond what it is today, would principles of leadership change?" I asked.

"They will never change," Giuliani answered.

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Engineer and nurse find gold mine in backyard

By Arlene E. Liberal
Contributor, UP ISSI

MANY Filipinos dream of working abroad to make it big.

Gamaliel Itao, an electrical engineer and his wife Virgina, a nurse, were no different. They worked abroad for a while, but the call of home was too loud to ignore.

They went back for good and quickly found a gold mine in their backyard.

The gold mine is Industrial Controls Corp. (ICC), incorporated in 1989 as the first Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) systems house in the Philippines, specializing in factory automation and instrumentation projects.

Jimmy put it up in response to the need to improve production efficiency, productivity and quality among local industrial enterprises.

The ICC has a wide array of products and services related to automation and instrumentation.

Detour

Jimmy and Girlie were already professionals in their respective fields when they were introduced by a mutual friend in Butuan City where they grew up. The friendship blossomed into romance and they got married in 1980.

Jimmy decided to go to Manila so he could take the board examinations for professional electrical engineers and at the same time lay the groundwork for employment abroad. He passed the exams with flying colors.

While waiting for an overseas employment, he found a job at the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries at the Diliman Campus where he was trained on low-cost automation so that he could handle this training program for the institute.

The opportunity to work abroad became a reality in 1986.

Jimmy was hired as Instrumentation Engineer by Honeywell Saudi Petrochemical Corp. in Jubael, Saudi Arabia. Girlie went the following year to work as a nurse at a general hospital in Taifi, Saudi Arabia.

But life was not easy in Saudi Arabia because they were living in separate cities. Their baby girl was left behind in the Philippines, in the care of relatives.

After finishing their two-year contract abroad, Jimmy and Girlie came home so that their family could be whole again.

Jimmy worked with the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation, a partner foundation of the UP ISSI.

Through Serdef, Jimmy continued to conduct the industrial automation and instrumentation courses (IAIC). His work abroad enriched his experience, which he enthusiastically shared with his students. Meanwhile, Girlie settled down to run the household and look after their children.

New business

Jimmy decided to put up a consulting firm on the use of programmable logic control systems to "practice what he preached" and to help the industrial sector, especially small and medium companies. He called it the Industrial Control Corp. Soon, Girlie joined him to handle finance.

Their first office was at their residence on the fourth floor of Sikatuna Bliss apartments near the UP Diliman campus.

It was not, therefore, difficult for Girlie to cope with her multiple roles as wife, mother and finance manager. Jimmy became her mentor in financial management.

Their big break came in 1994.

Jimmy had the opportunity to be the distributor of Omron Co., the leading supplier of automation products and components from Japan.

ICC not only provided the PLC system services but carried products needed for automation. From then on, ICC established strategic alliances with other companies carrying automation-related parts and components.

These include Honeywell, USA, Intellution-/Fix/AIMAX, USA, Tyco Valves, USA, Rockwell Automation USA. The number of employees increased from two at the start to 20 in the mid-'90s and 30 at present.

In 1995, the couple rented a space at the Technology Park at the UP campus.

The facility, run by UP and the Department of Science and Technology, addressed the need for small, young, and technology-based enterprises to get nurturing support in their formative years.

Jimmy considers himself lucky to locate in the Park.

"For the first time, ICC looked professional and businesslike," he said.

On to prosperity

In a few years, the business prospered.

Jimmy was able to invest in two units of office space at the Mega Plaza Building at Ortigas Center, Pasig City. This has become their main office since 1999.

Being small, the members of the ICC family share a strong bond. A team spirit has committed everyone to the fulfillment of the company's mission to help local enterprises automate and be globally competitive.

In many instances, when they have a project with a client, the technical staff will extend working hours just to finish the assignment on time.

It is the "esprit de corps" that the clients appreciate among ICC staff, prompting them to place repeat orders.

But it is not all work for Jimmy and Girlie.

They are active members of the Couples for Christ since 1993. Birthdays of Jimmy and Girlie are occasions for company celebrations. They also have outings once a year. Of course, Christmas is the year's highlight.

ICC has gone a long way from being a home-based enterprise with two employees. It is now located in posh offices in a posh area.

If you ask Jimmy how he did it, he would answer with the usual paeans to hard work and resourcefulness and opportunity-seeking, "esprit de corp" of employees, good relations with clients and colleagues.

Both Jimmy and Girlie believe in doing business the ethical way and they are God-fearing in all their actions. He hastens to add that he did it with the right spirit.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything will be added unto you," he says.

(Watch out for "Couples Who Dream, Do, and Take Risks" soon to be published by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation. Comments welcome at info.issi@up.edu.ph.)

GIRLIE and Jimmy Itao with children Gemmalie, Gameila, James and Xerxes Gamaliel.

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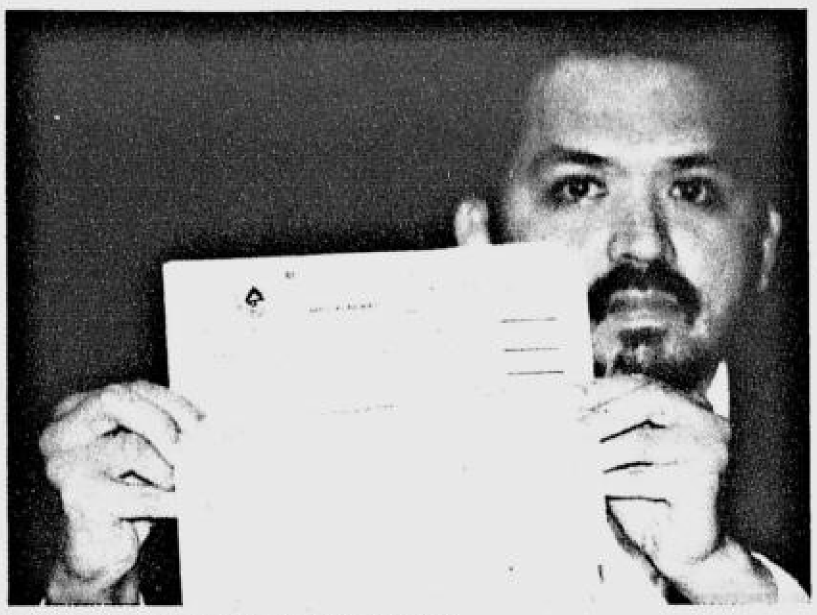
EASE BAGUIO'S WATER WOES

Mine wants to go into water venture

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



BENGUET Corp. president Philip Romualdez

BAGUIO CITY—Water flows from Baguio taps only twice a week. It has been the same story for the past 30 years.

Residents contend with an average supply of 35,000 cubic meters of water that is rationed to 26,000 households every other day, according to Baguio Water District (BWD) records.

But the demand normally shoots up to 52,000 cubic meters daily.

The city endured far longer than Metro Manila, which has yet to feel the same kind of water shortage.

But Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mine, believes that Baguio's water crisis has become the firm's opportunity to alter its historic legacy.

Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the 101-year-old Benguet Corp., is fighting to win a contract that will convert its abandoned mine site into the city's prime water source.

One of Benguet's idle open pit mines at Sitio Luneta in Itogon, Benguet, suits a well-thought out reservoir design that can hold up to seven million cubic meters of water, Romualdez said.

Benguet is the first mine to diversify into the water business, after developing a bottled water label called "Danum."

Its open pit reservoir can also make Benguet's mine the first to adapt a unique and socially relevant mine rehabilitation plan.

"A mine is now capable of providing water to a city that needs it badly. Isn't that a better story?" Romualdez asked reporters here recently.

But his proposal has its critics.

The BWD disqualified Benguet Corp., the only pre-qualified bidder for a bulk water supply project, when it isolated traces of lead, cadmium and manganese from the firm's raw water sources in Itogon, as well as mercury from one of its open pit mines.

Local businessmen also proposed a closer water source from the same mining town.

Romualdez said in a press conference here that his critics' arguments ignored the inevitable hopelessness of Baguio's water supply situation.

After spending millions on drilling all over the city, BWD has only exhausted Baguio's aquifers with no immediate recourse, he said.

Residents pay P21 for every cubic meter they actually draw from the taps.

Mario Alzona, a businessman, said Baguio residents pay an additional P135 a day to cope with the water supply deficit by hiring deepwell operators to ferry water to their very doorsteps.

"It's the Baguio lifestyle. A typical Baguio boy needs 150 gallons of water for laundry and for baths. We're more frugal because of the weather. Manila residents require 250 gallons of water each day, and that's just to clean off sweat," Alzona said, quoting a domestic water study commissioned by the Baguio-based Tubig Cordillera Rural Development Corp.

Tubig also bidded for the Baguio supply contract.

Great equalizer

Water has been Baguio's great equalizer, according to Nene Bowman, a former community newspaper publisher.

She said that no Filipinos have etched a level of discipline like Baguio residents.

Both the rich and the poor here routinely spend their day saving their laundry and kitchen water in plastic pails to flush their toilets come nightfall, she wrote in one of her columns in the defunct Baguio Gold Ore.

BWD first designed a bulk water supply program in 1995 when its long-term supply forecast noted a deficit of up to 10,000 cubic meters a day.

The water agency anticipates the demand to rise to 82,360 cubic meters of daily water supply once household accounts increase to 123,540 by 2005.

Romualdez said his firm has access to 657 million cubic meters of water from 80 water sources. He said enough state-of-the-art technology exists to treat raw water even from the mines, and pump this to the city at minimal cost.

But he said Baguio's ultimate solution to its crisis is its weather.

Romualdez said Baguio is the country's highest metropolis but its local government has done little to invest in major water impounding projects that will make some use of the city's rainfall.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) recorded Baguio's highest rainfall on July 4, 2001 at 46 inches or 1,058.8 millimeters of day-long rain when typhoon Feria flooded the city.

Jose Taguba, former city administrator, was poised to program a series of impounding dams for every barangay, after realizing the potentials of surface run-off water that is abundant between July and October every year.

But Taguba admitted that few administrations have considered water projects.

That has changed, said Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon.

He said the city government's activism whenever major development projects imperil Baguio trees has always been connected with the residents' appreciation of Baguio's dwindling water resources.

"When we rally against big companies that destroy our trees, it is because people want to make sure our water is safe. When we rally against big government project such as flyovers, people are concerned that these will destroy the aquifer," he said.

Earn respect . . .

From page B2-2

to adapt to their particular culture.

If he had to explain one directive in different ways and approaches, he would do it just to get things done.

At CIGI, Rubio says the people promote the values of ACTS—accountability, collaboration, transparency and stretch.

Accountability means getting people to take responsibility for their assigned tasks.

"We have goals, which we communicate with our people. We expect them to be accountable for the results," says Rubio, who has about 56 employees in his units.

CIGI has systems to make sure that people are properly and fairly monitored, measured and rewarded at the end.

Collaboration means working as a team, which Rubio says is very much part of the working culture at CIGI.

Transparency, on the other hand, involves making clear to the employees what the company intends to accomplish.

"We tell them the 'what'—what needs to be done and accomplished. But we leave the 'how' to them, along with some guidelines and within certain company policies," says Rubio.

The 40-year-old Rubio, who holds a Industrial Management Engineering degree from the De La Salle University, says it's important to make everybody aware of the company goals, so they would have a sense of ownership.

This, in turn, would drive people to be committed in delivering high-quality work.

Stretch, meanwhile, refers to giving employees stretch goals.

"We push people to really deliver difficult goals in the best way they can," says Rubio.

He says the company strives to provide a conducive environment for employees to come up with creative means to deliver their goals.

A conducive environment, he says, is one where people have the freedom to accomplish tasks in their own unique way.

But one area where Rubio says everybody must always adhere to the same rules is safety.

In fact, he conducts a daily Take Five meeting with his employees just to talk about safety concerns.

Take Five, meaning "take five minutes of your time," is a way of instilling in people the extreme importance of safety at their workplace, given the business CIGI is in.

"We cannot compromise safety. We work in a highly hazardous place since these gases are highly toxic and flammable," explains Rubio. "So if you start the day with safety through Take Five meetings, then hopefully, it will stick with the employees throughout the day."

Rubio adds that everybody should be properly trained to handle, react to and manage accidents, just to keep them on their toes.

Those who violate certain safety standards will, of course, be promptly penalized, according to Rubio.

And those who display extraordinary effort, he says, are just as promptly rewarded.

"I think what motivates people to do a better job is recognition, whether it's in monetary terms or simply just a pat on the back. The important thing is letting people know they have achieved something," says Rubio.

Performance incentives are given on a quarterly basis while recognition awards are given annually. Three or four people are usually chosen as outstanding employees in their respective areas.

CIGI also identifies five to six people as "high potentials."

These nominees are given an "aiming point" and assessed to see if they are qualified for a higher position.

To these "high potentials," CIGI gives two-week leadership trainings, which are conducted by educational institutions in Europe and Singapore.

At CIGI, Rubio says employees are given opportunities to develop not just within the country, but also in the region. There are currently six Filipinos holding regional positions at CIGI.

CIGI wants to develop as many of these "high potentials" as possible. But all companies have their share of non-performers.

He says dealing with these non-performers is one of the more difficult tasks of a leader.

"In the first place, it's unfair to put someone in a position that you know he's not capable of doing," says Rubio.

He says he makes sure that the person delegated in a certain position is equipped with the right skills and knowledge to deliver, at the very least, satisfactory results.

Manila . . .

From page B2-2

Collaboration and partnership in the metropolitan region among local jurisdictions, the national government, private sector and civil society will help develop and better integrate the expanded metropolitan region and spur urban growth and development.

The concept plan 2020 will call to action all stakeholders—the government, business sector and civil society—to realize the high development potential of the Manila Bay-Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region.

(The author is principal architect-urban planner/founder of Palafox Associates. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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FEP will receive newspapers on weekdays from 9am to 4pm in Makati, 9:30am to 4pm in Cebu and Davao, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1pm to 5pm in Laguna. Sellers will be paid P5.00/kilo in Manila and Laguna, and P3.50 in Cebu and Davao.

LINIS-GANDA

NEWSPAPER DRIVE
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference in the environment

Trademark is about fair competition, informed buying

By Eduardo C. Escaño
Contributor

NEVER has the world economy given as much concern and emphasis to the protection and enforcement of trademark rights as it is doing today. This global trend was brought about by the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the adherence to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

By becoming a member of the WTO and a signatory to the TRIPS, the Philippines opened its economy to a global market. Subject to certain statutory safety nets, goods and services are generally freely traded among members of the WTO. This free flow of goods and services among WTO member countries paved the way for businesses to develop brands for their products that serve and compete not only with their respective domestic markets but also with the international market. The result—the Philippine market now offers goods bearing the brands Marks & Spencer of the UK, Salvatorre Ferragamo of Italy and Kenneth Cole of the US.

Moreover, the entry of China as member of the WTO shook the foundations of the manufacturing process all over the world. Big businesses from the US now subcontract the manufacture of goods in China in view of the abundant and cheap labor. This has resulted in a whole new approach to the concept of trademark protection.

Traditionally, a trademark serves the following purposes:

(1) to identify the manufacturer or source of the goods,

(2) to assure a certain level of quality of the goods or services, as well as to establish goodwill,

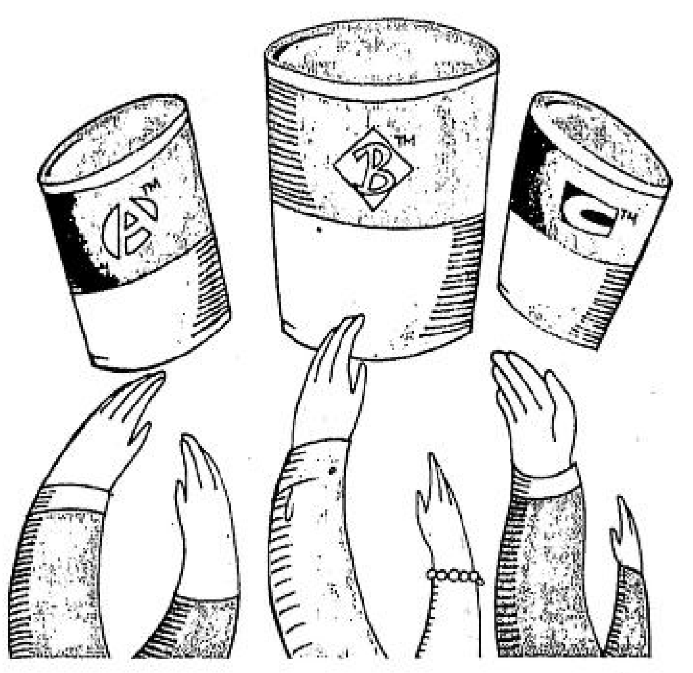
(3) to differentiate or distinguish the goods or services of a certain company from that of its competitors,

(4) to advertise new products of a company known to produce good quality products that would normally need an extra advertising boost, and (5) to reduce cost by riding on the already established goodwill of a mother brand.

Under the prevailing globalized economy, a communications hardware business like Nokia with its headquarters in the Finland can have various parts of its product made in China, assembled in Mexico, and sold to the United States and over a hundred other countries. Strictly speaking, the product was not wholly manufactured and assembled in Finland. Nevertheless, what propels the sales of the goods is not so much that it was made in Finland, but rather the brand or trademark under which the product is offered for sale. This is so because as consumers, we buy a specific brand of a product because we associate it with a certain level of quality and/or price. As consumers, we know that company from which we buy the products employ certain standards and levels of quality associated with its brand, irrespective whether they actually manufacture the goods or they subcontract it to reduce production costs. From this example, it is clear that the goodwill function of trademarks play a more dominant role in today's global economy.

Ownership of a trademark is a property right protected by law. The property right protected by law is that which belongs to the source of the goods. The source of the product should reap the financial and reputation-related rewards of having invested in the production and improvement of desirable goods.

The spirit behind trademark law, however, goes beyond protection of the property right of the trademark owner. Trademark law also aims to protect consumers and the public in general in their choice of products. Trademark law ensures that consumers can safely rely on trademarks in purchasing goods as products bearing a certain trademark are of a quality liked (or disliked) by the consumer.



In general, trademark law is all about fair competition among businessmen and informed purchasing decisions for the consumers. Trademarks assure "fair competition" in the market. A competitor will not be allowed to benefit from the goodwill and investments of another company for the latter's goods. At the opposite end of this, there lies the "consumer protection function" espousing informed choice in the purchase of products.

This article aims to inform and educate Philippine entrepreneurs on the importance and relevance of trademarks with the end in view of contributing to the development of our economy.

(The author is the Senior Partner of Escaño & Partners Law Offices and author of Trademarks in the Philippines: A Legal Guide)

Bank tops list of fund managers

EQUITABLE PCI Bank remains to be the No. 1 asset management group in the country based on the latest survey on the investment performance of retirement funds by international consulting firm Watson Wyatt.

Topping the 77th Watson Wyatt survey, its Trust Banking Group gave the best return on investment from among fund managers handling at least five funds under the category Trusteed Funds Managed with Full Discretion.

It ranked No. 1 for the first quarter 2004 and over the last five years running.

Equitable PCI has not only done well in the periodic surveys, it has also consistently outperformed industry benchmarks and, in most cases, bested its peer banks on multi-trusteed accounts.

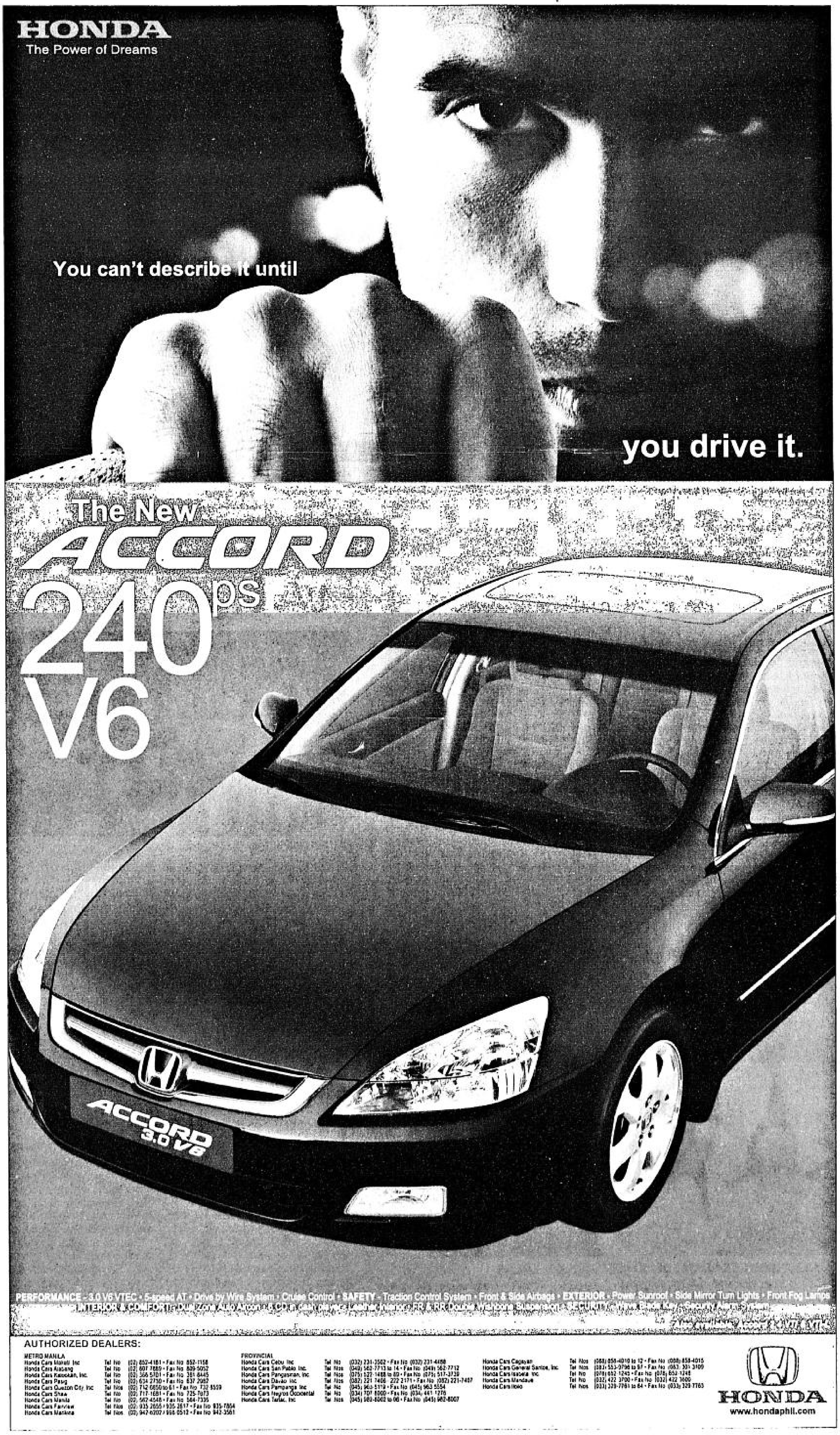
We follow a strategy of understanding our clients objectives and finding a fit between their needs and what opportunities the market offers.

Calling on our vast accumulated experience and the expertise of our highly professional management team have allowed us to manage risks well and deliver very good returns to our clients, said Senior Vice President and Trust Officer Marvin V. Fausto, Head of Equitable PCI Bank's Trust Banking Group.

Adds Fausto, â œWe follow the same investment philosophy and discipline for our Personal Trust clients. Whether our clients are in pooled funds or individual trust accounts, their portfolio depends on our assessment of their investment objectives, risk tolerance, investment experience, time frame, liquidity needs and how much of the investment comprises their total investible funds. This way we help our clients maximize the yields on their investments within acceptable risk levels.

Among its highly successful products are Prime Life and Prime Life Gold which offer personalized portfolio management, diversified investment mix and the flexibility of withdrawals. And in response to the markets appetite for long-term tax exempt investments, Equitable PCI Bank Trust Banking has developed the EPIC family of funds which permit clients to enjoy tax free income after a holding period of 5 years.

Equitable PCI Bank marks its 54th year of existence this 2004. It is presently the country's third largest bank, enjoying leadership in corporate and commercial banking, credit and payment cards, remittances, leasing, and investment banking. It has over 400 branches and more than 400 FASTeller ATMs nationwide, with access to 4,000 BancNet, MegaLink, and ExpressNet ATMs.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Editor Aries Espinosa

Managing diabetes effectively with 2-in-1 drug

ERNIE Q is a bank executive who has been battling diabetes for 10 years now. All these years, he has been prescribed several medicines to manage his ailment and its complications.

Like many diabetics, Ernie is hoping for a cure. Cognizant that diabetes is a chronic disease that involves long-term treatment, he is willing to try a breakthrough pill.

Many diabetics are not aware that the use of an effective medicine is essential in the management of diabetes. Failure to manage it may result in serious damage to the eyes, kidneys and heart.

According to the landmark United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study, approximately half of patients who are on metformin or other older anti-diabetes drugs eventually need some type of combination therapy to effectively manage their disease.

A drug that controls type 2 diabetes has been developed by GlaxoSmithKline, which is one of the largest research-based companies in the world.

The drug is the first therapy to combine rosiglitazone and metformin, each working in distinct ways in the body to manage type 2 diabetes. Metformin works primarily on the liver to lower the blood sugar level, while rosiglitazone directly targets insulin resistance, a major underlying cause of type 2 diabetes. Mixing the complementary treatment provides superior long-term blood sugar level control in patients with type 2 diabetes.

The drug got the stamp of Health Canada.

"At the end of 2003, the Canadian Diabetes Association will issue updated clinical practice guidelines that further stress the importance of tight glycemic control," said Donna Lillie, national director, research and professional education, Canadian Diabetes Association, adding "achieving and maintaining control of blood sugar levels is the key to preventing the complications associated with diabetes."

The rosiglitazone-metformin combination is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise, to reduce insulin resistance and improve blood sugar control in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus when diet, exercise and metformin or rosiglitazone alone do not result in adequate blood sugar control. Patients are reminded that this medicine, along with other antidiabetic agents, is a prescription drug and should only be bought upon doctor's advice.

Diabetes, the sixth highest cause of death by disease in the United States, strikes an estimated 16 million Americans-90 to 95 percent of whom have type 2 diabetes. Worldwide, the International Federation of Diabetes estimates that there are 151 million people currently living with diabetes. The number of diabetics worldwide is predicted to increase up to 300 million by 2025.

Patients with type 2 diabetes should consult their doctors to learn more about new treatments that could potentially put a stop to the progression of their disease.

MEDICAL MISSION IN SAN MATEO

The Public Affairs Service (AFPRescom) recently conducted a free medical dental optometric, deworming, milkfeeding and nutrition product distribution, which also included circumcision operation to 135 boys. Total patients who benefited amounted to 2,321. Led by commander Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus, the mission was a complete success. Shown are members of the pharmacy team dispensing free medicine, from left, Maj. Nestor Pedron, Maj. Manny Ruffy and T/Sgt Susan Tenorio.

ASIA-PACIFIC

EQ DIAPERS AWARDED BEST DIAPER BRAND

Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards (Apea) recently honored EQ Diapers as the Outstanding Infant Diaper Brand during the 11th Annual Awards night held at the AFP Theatre in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Receiving the award is Lerma Sta. Cruz, promotions and event manager of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc with the Apea awards committee officers (from left) Primo S. Domingo, Apea special events awards director, research and nomination Muhammad Aslam, Rev. Sonia Lim, co-awards chair, Gov. Leonida B. Ortiz, and Jonathan Navea, overall project chair. Apea is given to outstanding consumer products and companies based in the Philippines, Korea, China and other countries within the Asia-Pacific region.

LAGUNA TECHNOPARK OFFICERS INDUCTED

Rep. Uliran T. Joaquin of the First District of Laguna recently inducted into office the newly elected officers of the Laguna Technopark Association led by Reynaldo S. Lico of Panasonic Philippines. During her speech after the formal installation into office, Joaquin thanked the several locator companies for their contribution in making Laguna's local economy vibrant, robust, and alive. She likewise cited the role of the 3,000 special economic zones in 120 countries, which account for more than $600 billion in exports and 50 million direct jobs. Shown, from left are Fred Magpayo, Honda Cars Philippines Inc, Hitoshi Takahashi, Nikko Materials Philippines Inc, Akijiko Toji, Toshiba Information Equipment, Joaquin, Bartolomi Sarangaya, Matsushita Corp, Saburo Yamada, Takanichi Corp and Yoshiyuki Ohno, Hitachi Global.

NREA sets confab

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association (NREA) is gearing up for the holding of its National Convention and Trade Exhibits from Sept. 23 to 25 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Architect Nestor S. Mangio, NREA national president, has announced the creation of the convention team led by architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel as overall convention chair. The 3-day convention coincides with the celebration of the Urban Development Week held every Sept. 24 to 30. It is focused on the theme "Creating the New Filipino Community for the 21st Century." For particulars, call 912-3492 or 913-4463.

MCGAA search ongoing

THE MABINI Colleges General Alumni Association (MCGAA) of Daet, Camarines Norte, proudly invites all alumni to participate in its Search for Outstanding Alumni. The deadline for submission of nominations is on Sept. 11. The testimonial dinner and awarding is on Oct. 2. For more information, call Reby Jardin-Cuaño at (054)721-3391, Clare SA Casilihan at (054)721-5733 or 0917-2432403, Myrna B. Godeloson at (054)440-3300 or 0920-3016487 or log on to www.mabinicolleges.cjb.net or e-mail mc_gaa@yahoo.com.

Bits Clips

6th AIDS Media Awards

THE AIDS Society of the Philippines recently launched the 6th AIDS Media Awards, a nationwide contest that recognizes the role of print and broadcast media practitioners in the dissemination of valuable information on HIV/AIDS, at the Metropolitan Museum in Roxas Boulevard. Entries for TV News, News Feature in Radio, and News Feature in Print must be aired or published between Oct. 16, 2003 and Sept. 15, 2004. For the new category Scriptwriting for TV, entries will be collated from a workshop conducted by the top directors and scriptwriters. The winning entry will be produced into a nationwide *telesine*. Awarding rites are on Nov. 25, coinciding with the Society's World AIDS Day Celebration at the PICC Plenary Hall. All entries must be submitted to ASP not later than Sept. 22 at the 4/F Room 401, Dona Felisa Syjuco Building, 1872 Remedios Street corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. For inquiries, call 536-5509, 536-5694 or 523-1334.

DLSU GC reunion

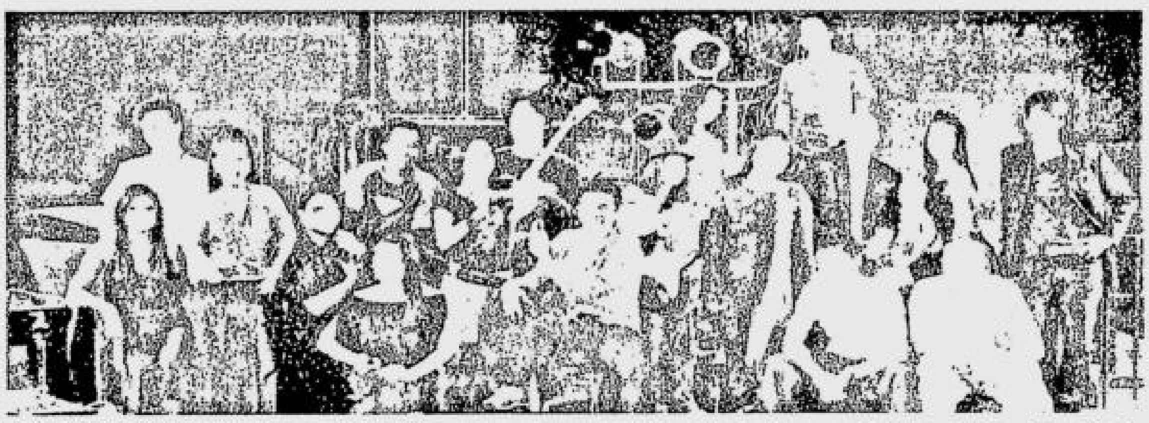
GRADUATES of the De La Salle University Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling (MSGC) program will hold a 2-day grand reunion at the school premises on Nov. 18 and 19. With the theme "MSGC Reloaded", the reunion expects the different batches of batches to be "reloaded" with a pack of new learning, new insights, renewed energy, and an enriched reserve of fond memories. Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC presidential adviser for academics and research, DLSU System, will give the keynote address. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 18. For more information, call Jesiel or Gene at the secretariat of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) at 820-8714 or 788-0736, or fax 809-1923 or e-mail gene@sville.edu.ph or genel@info.com.ph.

SM SUPERMALLS
WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM

NATIONWIDE SEARCH FOR SINGING LOLOS, LOLAS

SM Supermalls, along with In-A-Jiffy Enterprises (exclusive distributor of WOW Magic Sing Premium Videoke Microphones, the number one selling microphone in the country), has joined hands in the search for the country's singing Lolo and Lola. The event is nationwide in scope and will be participated in by 9 SM Supermalls in Metro Manila, four from Luzon and four from the Visayas-Mindanao areas. 12 grand finalists will compete for the grand finals to be held on Grandparents' Day, Sept. 12 at SM North Edsa. The grand winners (one lolo and one lola) shall each receive over P100,000 worth of cash and prizes. A crowd favorite shall receive P10,000 worth of cash and prizes. Shown are (standing, from left) Allan Quiocho, SM area marketing manager, south, Joseph Aguilar, SM area marketing manager, north, Fe Cuay, SM marketing assistant, head office and Rob Rubina, communications specialist, Events Solutions. Seated, from left, are Tom Day, SM area marketing manager, south, Sheryl Capistrano, SM area marketing for events and sponsorship, Olive Sanchez, GM, In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, and Marlon Zapanta, marketing specialist, events solution.

All certified Motorola E398 converts



THE FEELING of 'being live, front and center'

THERE must be something magnetic about the first stereo surround sound mobile phone in the Philippines-the new Motorola E398-that pulls in the likes of ad think tank Manu Sandejas, "Breakfast TV" host and sports enthusiast Ryan Agoncillo, techie mom/chill-out artist and "Digital Tour" host Iya Yotoko, world-class model Melissa Frye, high-adrenalin stage actor and "Studio 23" host JM Rodriguez, club DJs Wendell Garcia and Bad Boy Jeff.

The list extends to out-of-the-box rock band Barbie's Cradle, MTV VJ Patty Laurel, Azzuro Bistro owner Cory Roxas Untalan, Temple Bar's Erik Cua, female rocker Kitchie Nadal, Pinoy R&B artist Luke Mijares, cool cat Monster RX radio DJ Francesca, and L'Oreal's Professional Products division stylish PR manager Angelique Villaraza.

They are all young achievers who work hard and rock just as hard. That's why the Motorola E398 works for them-it's the mobile phone that's attuned to their life at work and outside.

Motorola E398 transports these converts into a new world of sound and vision they never realized existed. Imagine a stereo surround sound with dual 16mm 22khz speakers with vibration in a 110 g handset that gives off an incredible sound quality. Even downloaded Midi and MP3 music files will never sound this crystal clear in a mobile phone. All music-based sounds are richer, deeper, and crisper, providing a more intense and mind-blowing music immersion experience. As the musicians in the group say, "Motorola E398 makes you feel you're live, front and center."

Motorola E398 also allows storage and swapping music and videos with next generation TransFlash removable memory. The 176 x 220 color display then lets them watch and see their fave pictures and videos sans the fuzzy look.

To complete any party scene, these converts always have their Motorola E398 on hand to capture favorite moments with the internal VGA camera and flash, which ensures a darkened room or dance floor need never get between them and their subject. Rhythm lights interact with the phone's features and surroundings, making Motorola E398 the most alive music handset around.

And what's more, they get to talk with their hands free via integrated Bluetooth Wireless Technology complete with compatible accessories. Top it off with downloadable J2ME games and applications, and they got a phone that is custom-made for rollicking fun.

Owning a Motorola E398 sets you apart from the ordinary, the traditional.

Wonder no more why this batch has become Motorola E398 converts.

Let Motorola E398 rock your lives.

Motorola E398 packs it in with the following key features:

A Sensory Experience - dual 16mm 22 khz stereo speakers with vibration that provide incredible sound quality. Downloaded MIDI and MP3 music files sound crystal clear.

Audio Adrenaline Video Machine - an audio-visual sensation, it allows you to download your favorite MP3 music files or MPEG4 video files. Next generation removable memory packs multiple songs and videos in a compact size for easy transport.

High Resolution Photo - the 176 x 220 color display screen lets you see your pictures and videos at their very best. The VGA-quality camera comes with a flash, which makes photo session possible at night.

Games On -- J2ME games and downloads via GPRS, new music, ringtones, wallpapers, screensavers and information are all just a touch away.

SGS regional operating headquarters CEO David Robinson (2nd from left) recently donated computers to the Morningside School of Leyte, here represented by its school director Nathan Redubla (2nd from right) for the use of its less privileged elementary students. The Morningside School aims to "liberate the children of Leyte rural folks from ignorance and backwardness." In photo are SGS PR manager Milet Belicena and Aaron Redubla of Morningside.

Caving in . . .

From page B2-8

2. Most sedans will pay 15 percent.

The state should also hike the registration fees on motor vehicles, differentiating between private and public vehicles. The UP economists add a caveat. To lighten the burden for jeepney and bus drivers, replace universal drug testing with random sample testing.

Cleaning the stables

Getting back to BIR corruption, a major proposal was the original bill for the Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA). It would replace BIR personnel, give the new staff competitive salaries, and make them accountable to performance targets.

That would have really cleaned the stables. But alas, it met with stiff resistance from the BIR rank and file. IRMA was shelved. It was resurrected as NARA (National Authority for Revenue Administration), but that was also watered down. The bill offered "preferential hiring" to the current BIR staff.

Caving in to pressure—from corporate lobbyists and from protesters in the streets—has led to the fiscal crisis. It is time for government to stand firm and to do what is right. Justly do it. *(Comments to dennisarroyo@yahoo.com)*

A look at the nobler side of book publishing

By Lito Bunag
Contributor

Celebration of the Filipino
Rupert Jacinto
Portraits of an Era

THE RECENTLY launched book, Celebration of the Filipino—Portraits of an Era by Rupert Jacinto, is billed to go on a roadshow to New York and London. It will then play to a bigger and wider international audience; but the book is, first and foremost, for the Filipinos and by the Filipinos as envisioned by publisher Advertising Foundation of the Philippines (AD Foundation).

A publication project of this magnitude transcends commercial and PR goals and runs along social development thinking a foundation like the Ad Foundation is dedicated to. Led by some of the industry pillars like Noy Dy-liacco, Tony R. Samson, Dodie Lucas, Louie J. Morales, Johnip Cua and Linda Gamboa, the Ad Foundation publishes books of national importance such as the Building an Asia-Pacific Spirit of Community, Reliving APEC 1996: Select Documents and Speeches and Discovering Philippine Art in Spain.

It follows that the book was reflective of parallel relevant stories: the indomitable spirit of a freedom-loving people, the aspirations and achievements of the Filipino in various fields of human endeavor such as music and dance, fine and applied arts, literature, business and governance and of course, the talent and highly-skilled trade that went into the production of the book.

At the core of the publication are Rupert Jacinto's portraits which have notably added a new dimension to his artistry. Working within a thematic context, he has now worked with history—paying tribute through portraitures to those who have contributed, in one way or the other, to the advancement of Asia's first constitutional republic.

One can recall with nostalgia those moments and aspects of Philippine political, business and cultural life through pictures and pictures of a diverse cross-section of society, photographed at historical sites, institutional landmarks and Filipino-styled interiors.

From what started as a small exhibit of about 50 portraits at the Philippine Center, NYC in 1996 as one of the centennial events organized with Ronnie Gamboa Alejandro, Ambassador Willy Gaa, Luz Micabalo and Manuel Mayor Gamboa, the volume of photographs grew when the project transitioned much later to a commemorative book. As it shaped up through a series of photo sessions dotted by the tumultuous events of the Asian economic crises, impeachment trial and government in transition, the book consisted of about 400 portraits with some 800 personages including four Philippine Presidents, a number of national artists and an illustrious roster of captains of industry, business leaders, philantrophists and NGO personalities.

Setting for the book's jewels

To meet the challenge of this heavyweight content, the creative approach strategically went light and simple—more to be of service to a nobler end. The design essentially created a setting for the book's jewels: from period-styled photographs to historical and cultural insights.

The format is one of a high-end photography book with a great deal of luxurious white spaces to set off the portraits. An average head-size of the subjects was optically maintained with about three photos kept to a spread to emphasize portraiture photography as the publication's main medium.

Graphic elements were kept to a minimum as the photographs were already rich in texture, tones and topics. But this design simplicity probably made the book even more elegant and impactful. The no-frills cover is a clean layout of just one picture but the execution is grand, an unequivocal statement of Filipina pulchritude and renowned femininity. Inside, the rich gold color was contrasted by black to continue the elegant styling and to complement the sepia photos, thereby establishing the book's historical essence and classic character.

The consistency of the thematic design approach was borne by the assiduous printing of the book by accomplished Electronics and Communications Engineer Rene Cribe and his firm, Visual Color Inc. The book is one of his latest challenges even for its sheer size alone to contain the more than 400 portraits. Measuring 12" x 40" on its spread (though only 1 ½" thick), it may be the biggest (and heaviest) coffee table book yet. Form does follow content.

One is reminded of the rare, huge books of historical and legal documents and even the book of scores for the church's choirs and organ players.

Aesthetics with substance

An American communications consultant, Bruce Mau, expounded in his book Lifestyle a theory called Constant Total Length (CTL)—basically an organizing concept for book designing. The book is seen not by its "discrete units" but by its interconnection to everything else within "two fixed points."

This is where Linda Gamboa, the Ad Foundation Executive Director and driving force behind the book, played a key role. Together with Mimi Katigbak de Jesus, Lisa Mapua and the creative team, Linda conceptualized the breakdown of the Philippine Centennial theme into interrelated chapters—as Bruce says—of "information expected to travel within this CTL." Together with guest writers Felice Prudente Sta. Maria, Beth Day Romulo and even Tina and Rupert Jacinto pitching in, the team substantiated the book with essays, running commentaries and historical and cultural insights.

After highlighting the People Power phenomenon in this section, the book invites readers to take "a serious look at our past to better understand the dynamics of our present society and from there, plot our course towards the future with more confidence in our capabilities as an independent nation."

Another cluster is led by chapter six's Partners in Philippine Progress projecting "entrepreneurs as intuitive visionaries." Talking about visionaries lead you to communicators in chapter eight—Power of Creative Communication, reminding us that the Filipino struggle for freedom, for a dream, began with the propagandists of the 19th century.

Portraits of the Filipino Artists, chapter nine, projects the Filipino as an artist who looks to his roots for inspiration and harnesses innate talent with deft craftsmanship.

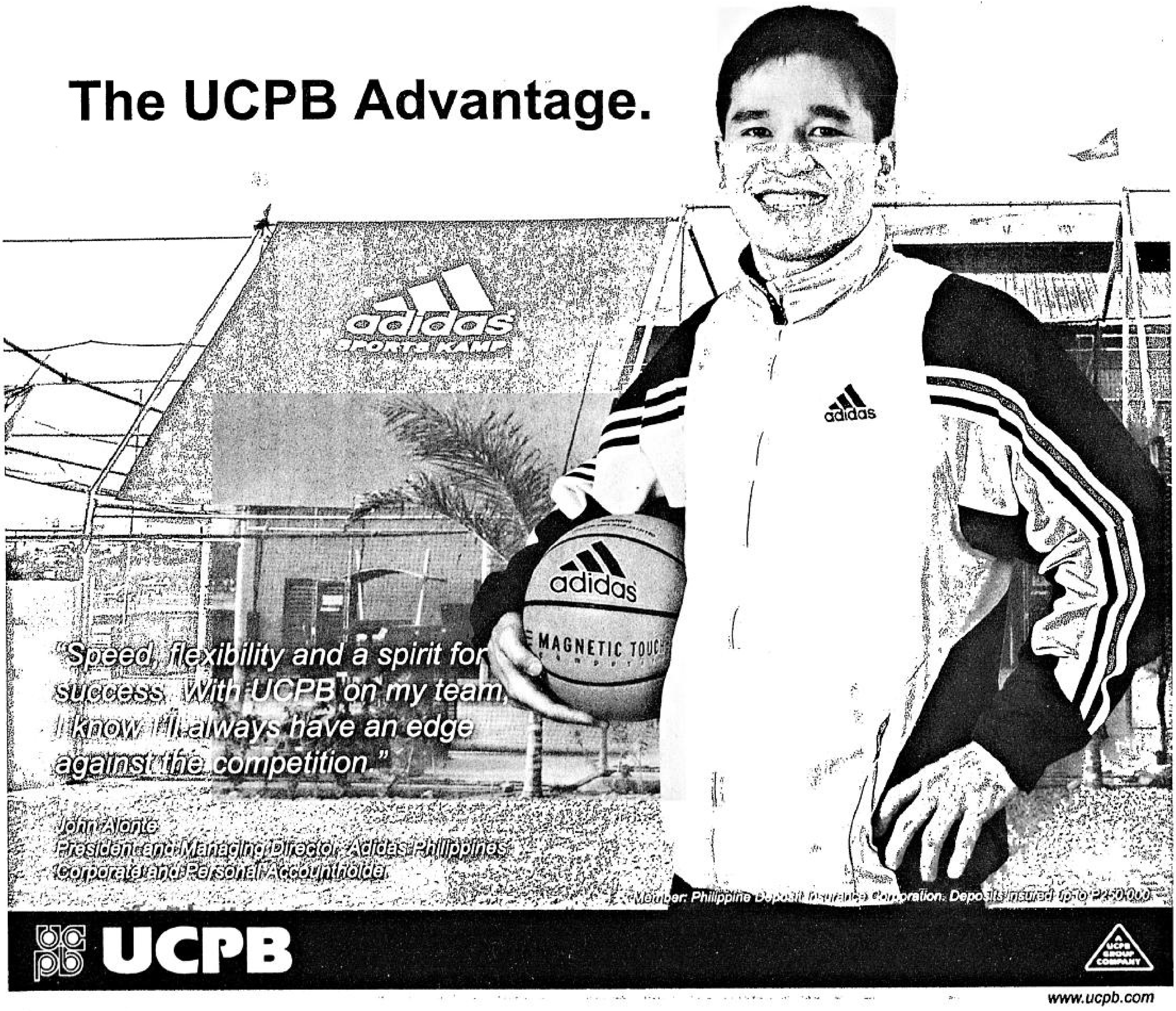
The book proper ends with chapter ten's Legacy of Generations. Symbolized by Ninoy's statue and a group of young achievers, a new generation is said to emerge, "armed with the continuing legacy of our hopes and dreams."

All told, the book became a powerhouse collaboration of sponsors and institutions like the Intramuros Administration, the National Historical Institute and the National Centennial Commission together with the Ad Foundation group and those who made the location shoots at the historical sites and landmarks possible.

As Rene Cribe said, "the Filipino is creative; tough in the face of adversities, resilient in bad times and resurgent in good times."

He may have actually referred to the arduous but rewarding process of putting the book together.

(The author is Ad Foundation Publications Committee and book designer)



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STATE FUNDS HELD HOSTAGE

Caving in to pressure causing fiscal crisis

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE FISCAL crisis is brewing and it must be met head-on. Otherwise a bankrupt state may end up unable to pay its employees. It may have to close down schools and hospitals. It will definitely dry up investments and kick legions out of their jobs.

"Just cut the budget," some may suggest. But all the fat has been trimmed away from social spending.

Cutting muscle

What will end up cut is vital muscle, for social spending is already low or falling in real terms. In fact spending on education and infrastructure should be hiked by P43 to P64 billion per year so that the Philippines will be competitive.

What then are the main causes of the fiscal crisis?

According to the paper by UP economists:

1. Revenues have been falling sharply over the years in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). Taxes are being shaved by shady agents. Even more, the public is tacitly revolting against state corruption by evading its taxes.

2. The government has been assuming the liabilities of government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs). The subsidies are huge. Servicing GOCC liabilities involves a giant sum equal to 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Crazy pricing

I want to point out that problems come when the government caves in to lobbying and public pressure.

The National Power Corp. is draining the government because it charges PPA of only 40 centavos due to pressure. But it has to pay P1.20 to the independent power producers.

Power rates will have to rise to realistic levels. Just raising fees by P1.50 per kilowatt hour cuts the burden by an amount equal to 1 percent of GDP.

Take the light rail service. It provides Metro Manila residents with fast transportation and helps ease the traffic. But it's draining state coffers because the rates are too low. The Metro Rail Transit (MRT) began with a fare of P34. Then this sank to P20. Today the MRT just charges some P15.

To stop the massive bleeding by GOCCs, the government must raise charges for services like electricity, rail, and highway tolls.

Killed bill

Then there are the "sin products," like cigarettes and alcohol. The taxes on these items have not been adjusted for inflation since the tax reforms in 1997. The strong lobbies from the tobacco and liquor giants have killed the bills that sought the adjustments. Proposals to index the taxes to the inflation rate have gathered dust in Congress.

The move to index the sin taxes to inflation is now in the legislators' court. This law must be passed within 2004.

Exempting law firms

The value-added tax (VAT) is another case. VAT cuts the scope of evasion as compared to the previous sales tax. People have the incentive to ask for their receipts so they can be included in their deductions.

VAT covers professionals, but it was compromised due to lobbying. VAT exemptions were given to doctors, lawyers, even law firms, and show business professionals.

For every P1 tax collected from fixed income earners, only 10 centavos is collected from self-employed professionals.

Expanding the coverage of VAT, and raising its rate slightly will yield an additional P 25 billion.

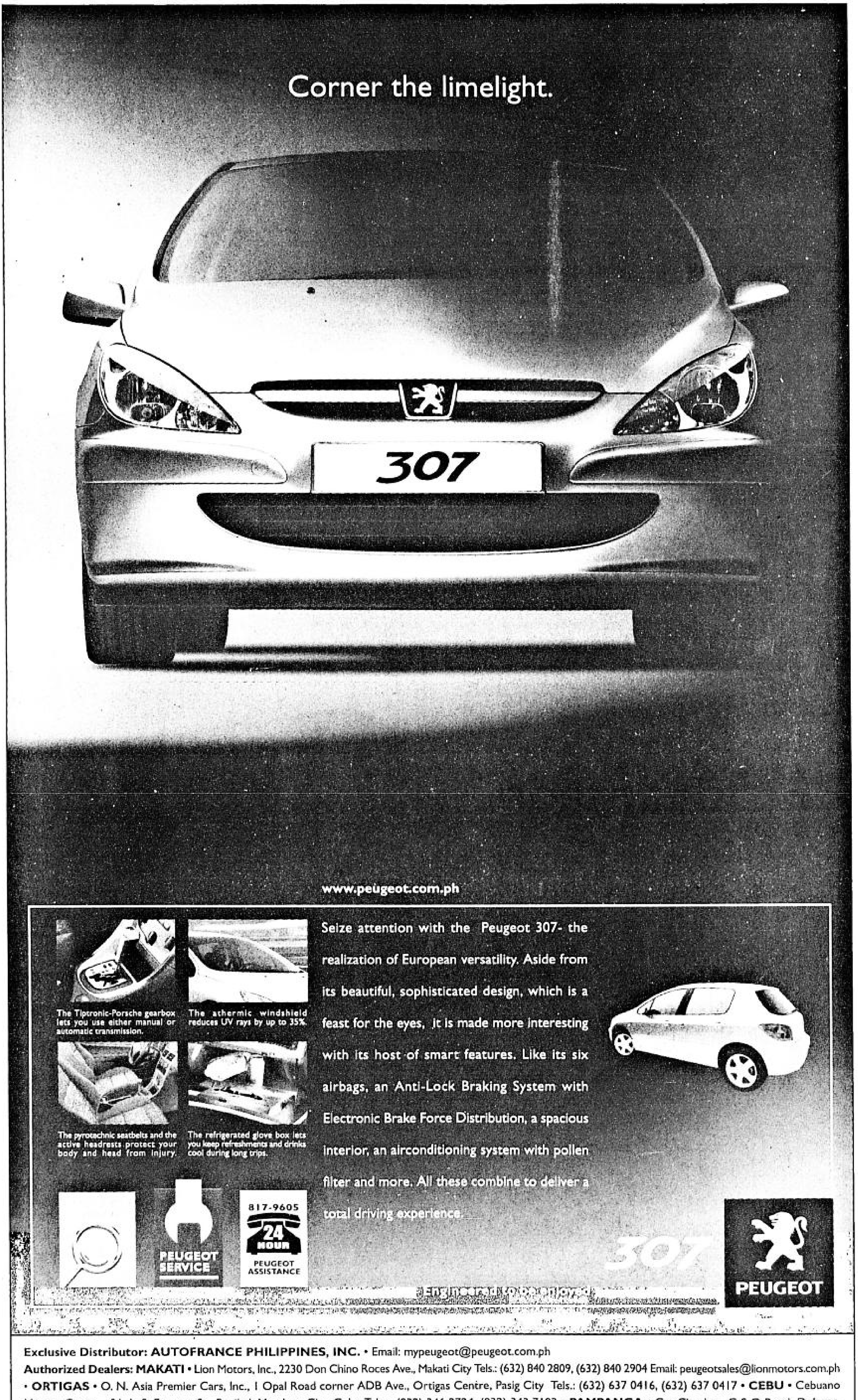
Fast getaway

Motor vehicles got away with tax cuts also due to industry lobbying.

Huge revenues from the auto sector were lost due to distortions. In the past, the government was willing to tax cars 15 percent, and to tax luxury large-displacement vehicles 50 to 100 percent. Today the minimum tax on new vehicles is just 2 percent.

The minimum, as argued by the UP economists, should be 10 percent rather than

CAVING/ B2-7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Seduction in Quiapo

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

The old Manila district never ceases to charm and enchant

EVERYTIME I am stuck in traffic on a Friday, people will say, "*Ay, Quiapo kasi!*" By this they mean that traffic is heavy because of all the devotees going to Quiapo to pray to the image of the Black Nazarene, for Friday is the Nazarene's day. Of course, foreigners like to point out, Manila traffic conditions are miserable all throughout the week!

Yet, there is more to Quiapo than just a snarl of vehicles. I was fortunate enough to have a special guided tour of the place.

One's first impression of the district is of chaos and decay. All our senses are assaulted by the garish colors of the merchandise being sold on the streets, the blaring music from the CD shops and the smell of the putrid *estero*. But gradually, another Quiapo emerges. In the midst of the screaming billboards and the fumes from the jeepneys, one spies the quiet touches of a gentler world.

Everywhere there are lovely old houses dreaming of the past. One of them actually used to house the former Consulate of Monaco. I found this quite interesting since my own mother was also the Monegasque Consul at one point. The lady in Quiapo even showed us the old seal of Monaco. *Naku*, just in time for the coming visit of Princess Caroline!

One sees windows with intricate designs. One sees shadowy carved doorways. At one point, we entered the compound of an old house and were quite surprised to see that a huge tree had sprung up. It really felt like a jungle in the middle of the city. One couldn't help worrying that anacondas might spring out of nowhere! It made me so aware that there are many worlds hidden away in the many twisting streets of this Manila district.

You never know what you will encounter. In one corner there's a little shrine containing a replica of the Nazarene. We watched as the local residents would stop and touch the statue's robes before heading to their daily journeys. In another corner, we were startled by a beautiful sculpture of a woman and children set amidst pipes and tubes. Nearby, an extremely narrow alley revealed an incredible sight—the huge statue of the Blessed Virgin sitting on top of a globe.

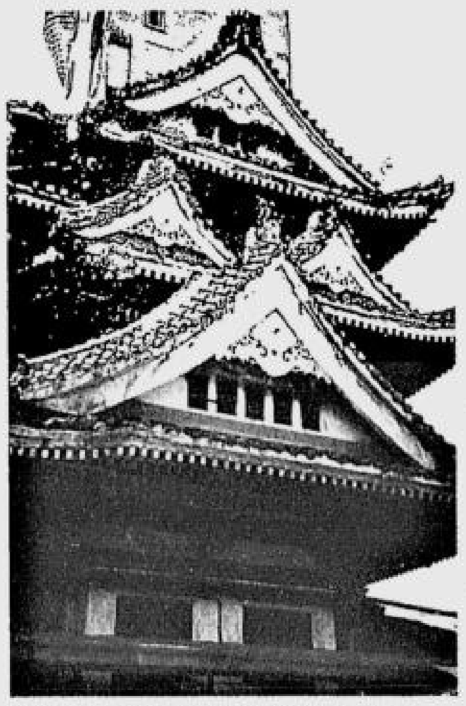
Located on R. Hidalgo street is the Paterno mansion. It has been described in one book as one of the few 19th century houses left in Manila that still has its original courtyard. One really gets a sense of another age. Sadly, one of its huge wooden doors is just lying unused on the pavement. (*Naku*, I probably just gave some enterprising antique dealer a tip!) The mansion has been broken up into little apartments. We tried to get inside but were barred from entry. Even when we pointed out that we actually had a live Paterno in tow (in the person of Mailin Paterno Locsin), the person-in-charge was unimpressed.

We also stopped by the house of two charming sisters. Their gracious home still had much of its original furniture. The building is oriented toward the street corner so that the main window has a commanding view of the intersection. It was in this house that Angel de Guzman's 1915 Letras y Figuras spelling the name of Ysidra Lim was found.

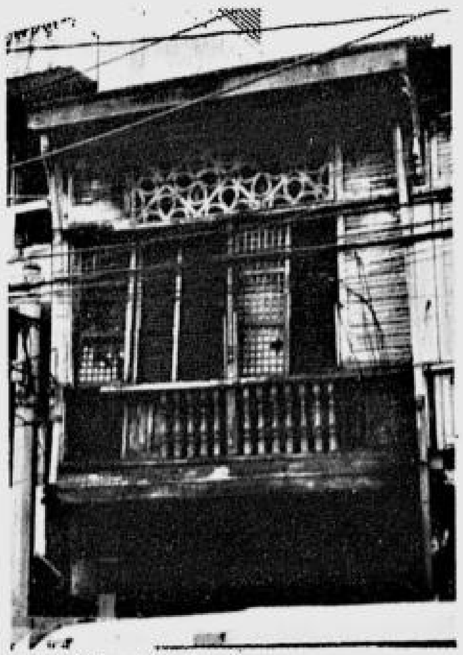
But of course, nothing in the whole district

SEDUCTION/C2

A WILD courtyard in an old Quiapo house



THE OCAMPO Pan-Asian style mansion



QUIAPO architecture

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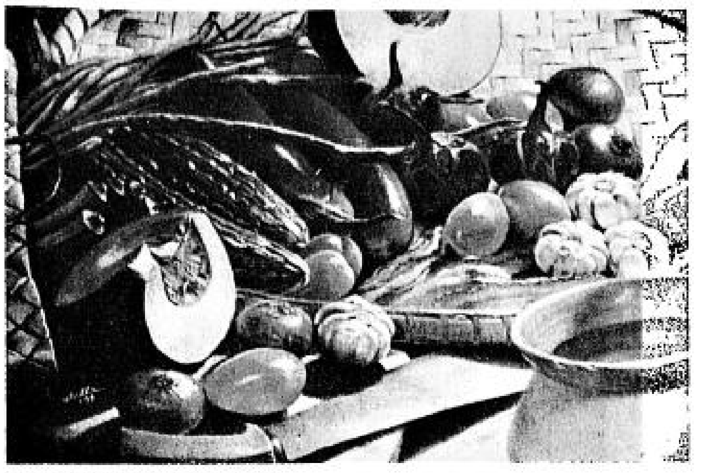
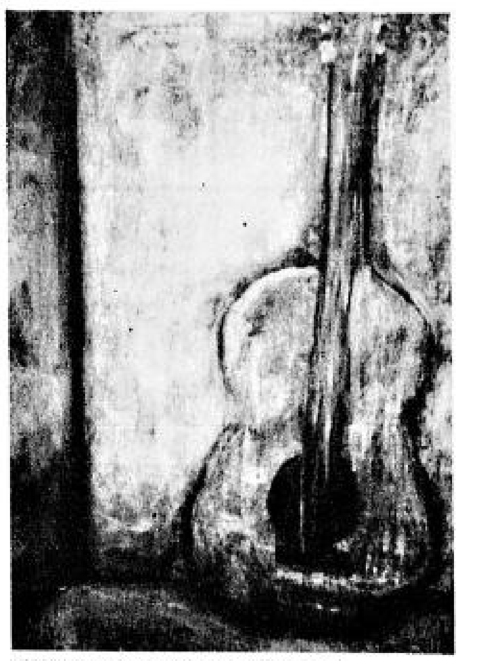


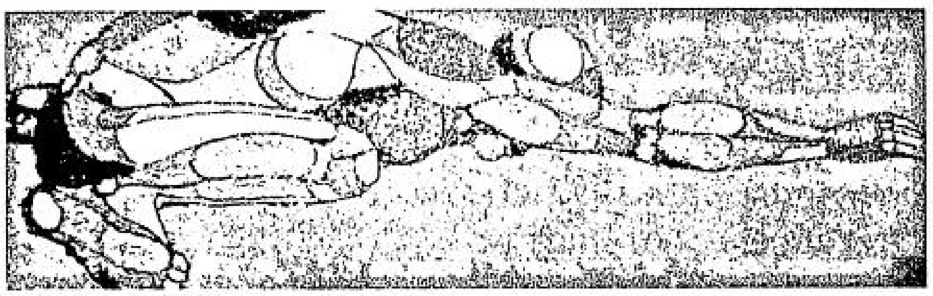
"PINAKBET," by Grandier

GRANDIER, Raul Roco Jr., Jes Evangelista, Honey Banal, Jane dela Paz and Norly Meimban



"WALL of Fame," by Honey Banal

6 and solo



"DIPA," by Norly Meimban

By Constantino C. Tejero

A GROUP of artists is out to make its mark on the local art scene. This week should be auspicious, as they hold their first solo exhibits.

Luck seems to be smiling at these young people. They were offered a huge venue, so instead of holding a group exhibit, they're opening six solo shows under one roof.

Sponsored by Davies Paint, with the support of BluPrint, Me and My Home magazines, "Six Solos" will run on Sept. 1-30 at the Pasig City Museum in Plaza Rizal, Pasig City.

Norly Meimban's "Bondage of Time," 14 pieces in oil and mixed media (oil and acrylic) on canvas, depicts the baldheaded human figure as seen in the expressionist works of his contemporaries Elmer Borlongan and Emmanuel Garibay. (Meimban says this image can be traced back to the figures of Danilo Dalena and Onib Olmedo, pioneers of figurative expressionism in the country.)

His usual subject is the human figure, which is here depicted in strenuous poses to suggest the struggle against time. The clock has become a motif.

Meimban also paints expressionistic horses, still life, landscape.

He was into film animation for 10 years before he decided to be a full-time painter. A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from University of the Philippines, he has thrice received awards from the Metrobank Art Competition.

Playing with color

Raul Roco Jr.'s "Prisms," 15 pieces in oil on canvas, is a vivid homage to what he calls "the hidden colors of light." Exploring the concept of the prism, the artist plays around with the seven colors of the rainbow.

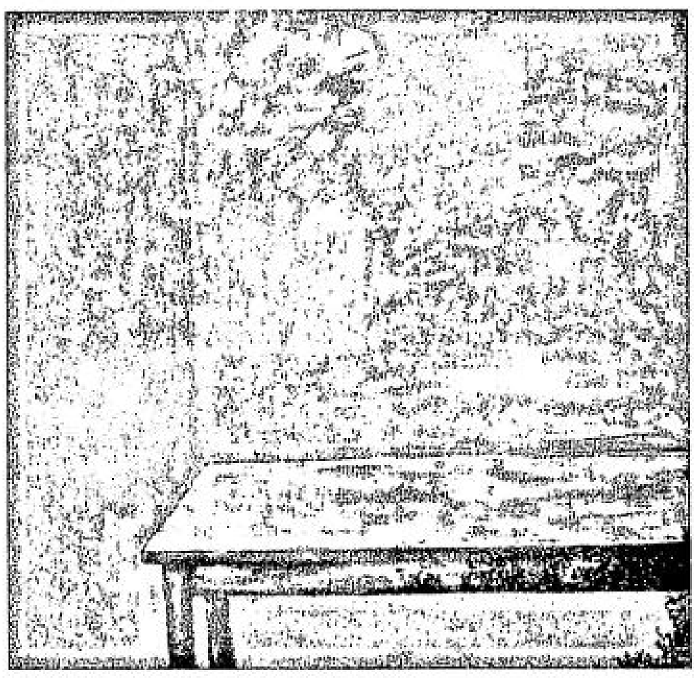
These are line drawings filled with vibrant hues. Most are surreal landscapes, the pictorial field subdivided into cubes, with geometric forms floating in space.

"When the subject is emotional, the image becomes surreal," says Roco.

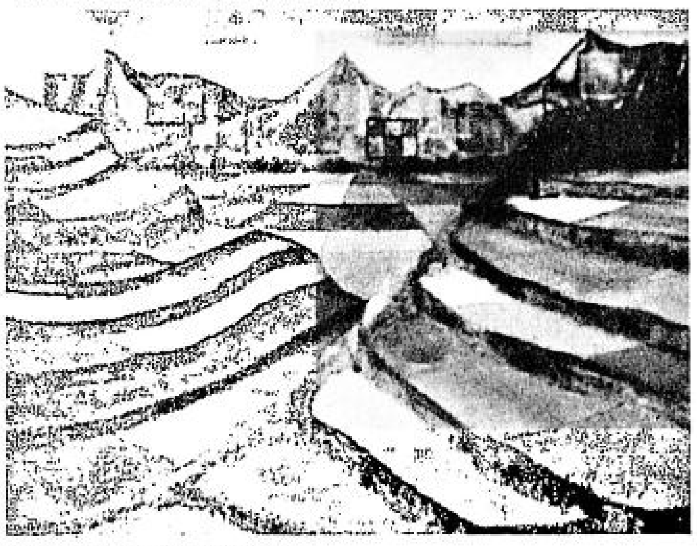
An autodidact in art, he studied Comparative Literature (European) at UP, and did corporate work in sales and advertising for three years before he went into serious painting.

"I started when I realized that the best thing to give as a gift was something you painted," he says. "I know colors. I read about color theory from the Internet. I learned perspective by myself. The challenge is how to balance light and shadow."

Line and perspective



"BENCH Warmer," by Honey Banal



"BANAHAW," by Raul Roco Jr.

Mary Jane dela Paz's "Emerge," 10 pieces in watercolor on paper and collage in mixed media on wood and canvas, images an architectural motif. The paintings look more like illustrations or studies in perspective, rendered in washes of orange, red, yellow, purple, green, blue, brown.

Prominent is the image of a pyramid or ziggurat, often in a landscape with a human figure, but the focus always on the structure. The landscape is sometimes made surreal, as by the presence of a body of water in the desert.

Dela Paz has a Bachelor of Arts, major in Interior Design, from Assumption College. Mentored by Lino Severino, she started seriously painting only two years ago.

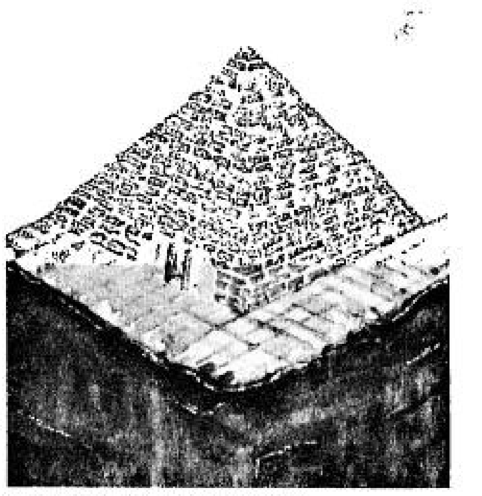
"I know my perspective," says Dela Paz. "In interior design, you use rigid lines, level *lang*, stiff. A little disproportion would be noticeable. But in art, you use distortion for motion."

She points out the visual tension in her pyramidal form, in which the foundation appears stable yet the lines are moving. In this, she says, she wants to symbolize stability amid mutability, to project the strength despite the frailness of things, structures, human beings.

"Art involves distortion," she says. "And texture—unlike in interior design where it's just a flat wash. I'm now playing with color. I'm more inclined to vibrant colors."

The art scene welcomes new colors, fresh perspectives

Tone and texture



"STABILITY," by Jane dela Paz

Honey Banal's "Wall to Wall," 15 pieces in mixed media (oil and acrylic), depicts minimalist imagery of bowl, chair, guitar, ladder or shoes against nondescript wall, in a monochrome of green, gray, blue, but chiefly red. The pieces are notable for their rich color tones, texture, scale, the cropping of the image.

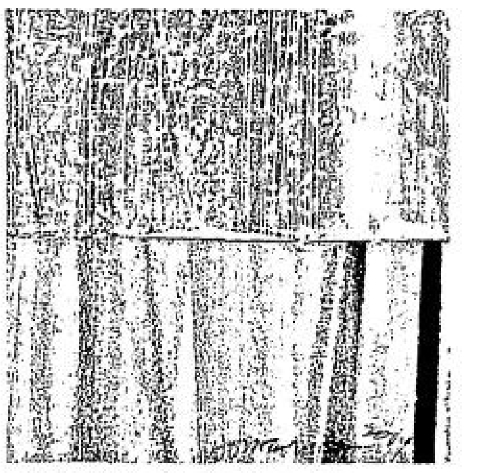
"I want to get the appearance of a wall," says the artist. "A wall is often ignored, but I see beauty in it. I appreciate its nature, whether empty or fading or with bricks."

A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Advertising, from the College of the Holy Spirit, Banal used to do floral still lifes but has shifted to still life of objects verging on abstraction.

For this artist, family interaction is part of her art-making. Some of her paintings of wall she let her kids embellish with doodles and drawings of stick figures, fruits, plant forms.

Her four-year-old daughter, she's happy to report, has sold a painting of her own for five figures. The proceeds the family has donated to an organization caring for abandoned children.

Reactionary art-making



"SQUARE Line," by Jes Evangelista

Grandier's eponymously titled "Grandier," five pieces in pastel on paper, offers still lifes of comestibles, fruits and vegetables, landscapes, seascapes, rural genre, done in the photorealist manner.

Grandier's collection is distinguishable as it flaunts "conservative" art vis-à-vis the more "modern" look of his colleagues' works. In fact, he was at first hesitant to be included in these joint exhibits.

"I told them *baka ma*-out-of-place *lang ako*," he says. "But someone said, '*Kung ano gusto mo, ilabas lang.*' So here I am."

A free-lance graphic designer by profession, Grandier has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from UP, cum laude. Considering the progressive reputation of his school, he would seem like a reactionary in art-making.

"I want to explore the tension between colors and objects," he says. "I'm partial to high contrast, of light and dark, of colors."

Yes, his art may be in danger of being seen as academic painting, but his skill with color and composition saves it from falling into Mabini art.

Feast of abstraction

Jes Evangelista's "Square Line," 30 pieces in mixed media (acrylic, oil, craypas, colored pencil, graphite), is a feast of abstraction in brightly colored stripes, parallel, perpendicular, lateral, crosshatched.

Inspired by plastic cards (phone cards, ATM cards, credit and debit cards), the artist produced these lines with the help of layering of masking tapes.

"I focus on the interplay of lines and colors, the basic elements of art," says Evangelista.

A free-lance graphic designer before, he is now a full-time artist. He says what he had been doing in graphic design he cannot use in his art-making now, as the manipulation of line and color on the computer is different from the brushstroke.

Evangelista majored in Painting and Sculpture in the UP College of Fine Arts. More visible in the art circuit than his colleagues in this group, he was twice finalist in the Shell Students Art Competition.

It is something of a feat then that this group of artists of varying styles, techniques, subject matters and tempers are gathered under one roof all at once. For a month, art-lovers can bask in the richness of their art.

Seduction in Quiapo

From page C1

compares with the sight of the Ocampo Pagoda. A friend explained to me that it was built in the 1940s by Jose Ocampo, a Quiapo scholar and entrepreneur. He was quite fascinated with the Renaissance and was trying to find an Asian equivalent. He found it in the civilizations of India, China and Japan. The Pagoda was a kind of architectural statement showing his ideas regarding the best of Asia. It was probably meant to be some kind of a multi-purpose pavilion for receiving guests and holding parties, as Ocampo never actually lived in this building. It has aspects of Chinese temples, Japanese palaces and even Spanish castles. On its main tower are images of a Chinese dragon and a Japanese crane, among other figures. The building is truly magnificent, and it is quite an amazing sight in the middle of the dilapidated buildings of Quiapo. I can never forget walking down a small lane and discovering what must have been a gatepost of the Pagoda. It was topped by a fantastic sculpture of a carp! Such a beautiful art work set in the midst of a crowded city neighborhood! Unfortunately the Pagoda is now in a very sad state and really needs restoration. I hope we do not lose this gem of a building which is, in fact, the work of a truly global visionary!

CARVERS in a Quiapo atelier

My friends ended the day having a wonderful dinner in the Nakpil-Bautista house. This was the house were Andres Bonifacio's widow, Gregoria de Jesus, spent the last years of her life after she remarried and became Mrs. Nakpil. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to stay as I had another appointment. But my friends told me that Mrs. Nakpil's daughter, Mrs. Zialcita, and her family, were such delightful hosts.

Looking back on that memorable afternoon, I am filled with longing. I long for the day when Quiapo's many treasures will be made more available for everyone. Can you imagine the beautiful mansions on R. Hidalgo restored and turned into restaurants and galleries? Can you imagine.plays being held with the Ocampo Pagoda as a glorious backdrop?

One must always keep on dreaming, no?

E-mail comments to beartist@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or write to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

From Taal to Laoag . . .

From page C3

dures for their preservation.

Replacement of the roof at St. William the Hermit Church, Laoag City. The deterioration of the roof of the Saint William the Hermit Church (originally built in 1700, restored after earthquake damage in 1843) requires immediate action since the leaks are damaging the wooden trusses and it is felt to be a threat to public safety. Local architects and engineers recommend replacing the roof trusses with steel. That is the central issue.

On the conservation side, the original structural ensemble of walls and posts of adobe and lime that support the wooden trusses is a homogeneous structure, one where all the materials are in equilibrium and compatible with each other. That it has lasted since 1843 proves the old design's strength and stability.

Replacing the old wooden trusses with steel trusses, admittedly the most expedient solution, disturbs the 150-year-old structural equilibrium. The original wall thickness sufficiently supported the weight of the old wood trusses and roof. It may not be able to support the added weight of steel. The connection of steel to adobe walls also is a structural problem that may damage the original walls.

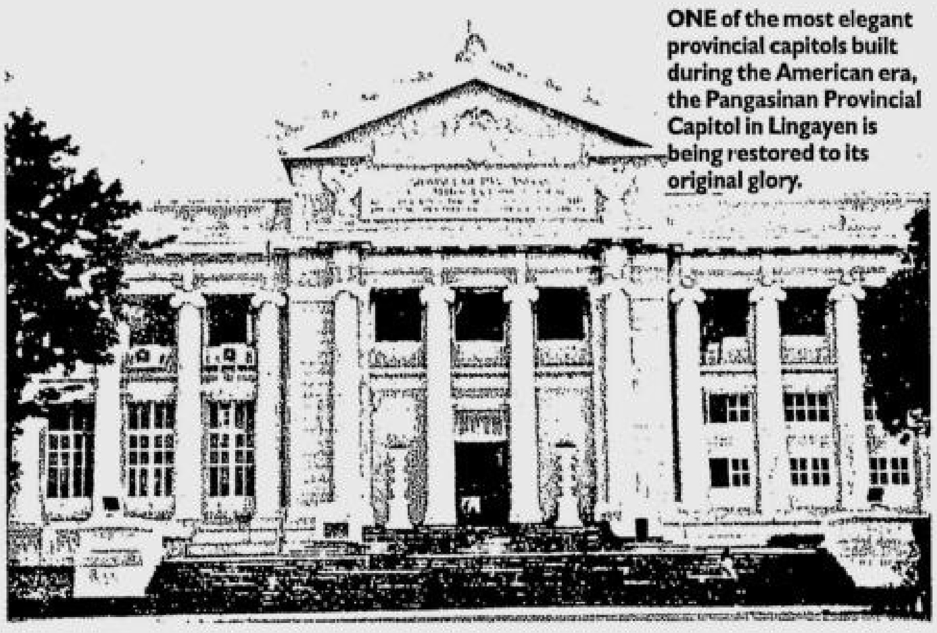
The introduction of steel to the homogeneous adobe-and-wood structure is as incompatible as performing a surgical operation to tie human bones together with ordinary construction wire cut by a pair of pliers. The human body's rejection of the wire would be as violent as the reaction of the old walls to the steel trusses. We may not see it immediately, but steel would ultimately damage the old structure.

A detailed inspection of the wooden trusses will determine their existing condition and classify what can be retained and/or replaced among them. It may be found that not too many wooden trusses may need replacement and that an available specie of wood can be sourced as replacement that is compatible with the original hardwood trusses. In that way the homogeneity of the structure can be preserved.

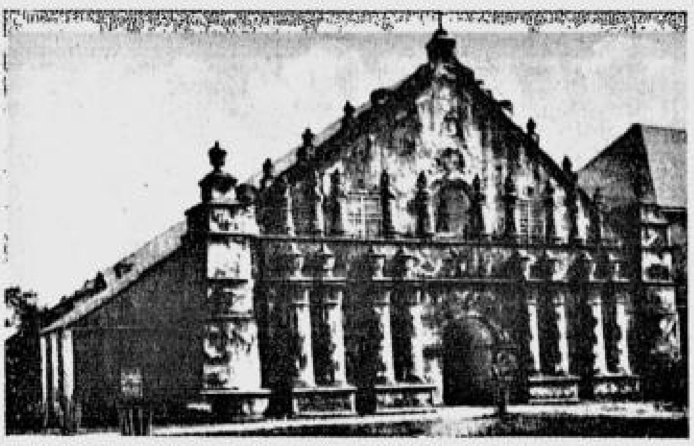
One cause of misunderstanding in the Laoag issue is the lack of consultation with a qualified conservation architect. There's a difference in focus between a regular architect and one trained in conservation, a difference comparable to that of an obstetrician and an ophthalmologist, both registered MD's but with different specializations.

Before installing steel trusses to the ultimate ruin of the church, a dialogue among all those involved with qualified conservationists and the Commission on Church Heritage of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines can hopefully set an approach that assures the safety of the parishioners, while properly conserving the church structure. This will also set an example to other parish priests that the conservation of church heritage is serious business.

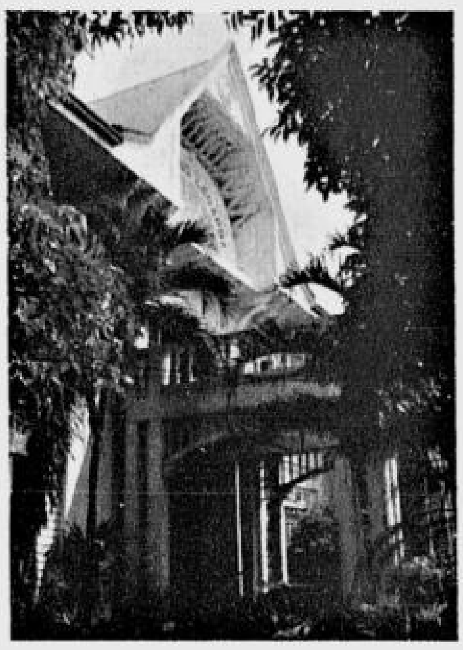
E-mail your feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com



ONE of the most elegant provincial capitols built during the American era, the Pangasinan Provincial Capitol in Lingayen is being restored to its original glory.



Structural homogeneity is the issue behind opposition to replacing the Laoag Cathedral's original wooden roof trusses with modern steel trusses.



LEGARDA Elementary School in Sampaloc, Manila, designed by the renowned architect Andres Luna de San Pedro in 1922, is probably the most architecturally picturesque school in the country.

From Taal to Laoag, heritage issue rages

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

HERITAGE conservation has been a give-and-take affair so far. The Jai Alai building in Manila was one of the major losses. But it was a turning point. Its loss made many Filipinos aware of their endangered heritage.

Behind each heritage disaster in the country that gets front-page report is a success story that goes unreported. Public awareness of what is happening to our heritage is central to the campaign. So this is an update to inform the public of what is happening, positively or negatively, in the heritage sector.

Heritage schoolhouse restoration. The program provides funds for the Department of Education to restore a heritage schoolhouse per region. The restored buildings primarily add much-needed classrooms while allowing teachers and students to reconnect with the unique history of one of the oldest government agencies in nation-building.

DepEd commissioned the Heritage Conservation Society to provide the historical research, architectural, engineering and construction management for the restoration.

The Rizal Elementary School (built 1907) in Bacolod was completely restored and inaugurated last June. The Baguio Central School (1909) will be restored in November. The Pampanga High School in San Fernando (1908) and the Legarda Elementary School in Manila (designed by the renowned architect Andrés Luna de San Pedro in 1922) are to be completely restored in 2005.

Student awareness is part of the program. HCS consultants trained history, architecture, and engineering students, as well as writers and photographers, to participate in the conservation. Participating schools are La Consolacion College in Bacolod, the University of the Philippines (Diliman) and Saint Louis University in Baguio, and the University of Santo Tomas for the Pampanga High School.

Illegal construction at the St. Martin of Tours Basilica, Taal, Batangas. The late parish priest of Taal, Batangas, ordered the construction of a perpetual adoration chapel in one of the light wells in the courtyard adjoining the Basilica of Saint Martin of Tours, a monument under the jurisdiction of the National Historical Institute. The construction continued despite his untimely death.

The NHI convened a panel of experts who concluded on Aug. 10 that the construction violated PD1505 and was illegal.

The builders obtained no written permission from NHI previous to the construction. The panel recommended that the new structure "should be demolished and all traces of it on the ground should be removed."

It further pointed out that "aside from conserving buildings of historical significance, it is also necessary to conserve spaces within and around the buildings as originally designed. Such spaces enhance the visual impact of the building and the quality of the environment."

However, CHARM, an NGO of Taaleños who see to the preservation of their town, has offered to construct a new adoration chapel that follows the recommendation of the NHI panel at a place to be agreed upon by the NHI and the parish.

Restoration of the Pangasinan capitol in Lingayen. The Pangasinan provincial government commissioned conservation architect René Luis Mata to restore its elegant Beaux Arts style Capitol building (1917). One wing has been completed, showing the painstakingly detailed restoration. Renovation of the rest of the building is in progress.

Plans are now being prepared to restore Maramba Boulevard to its original design. It was designed during the American era as a wide parkway to lead from the center of Lingayen to the seaside capitol.

Preparation of Dagupan heritage conservation plan. The Dagupan City Council voted for the preparation of the "Urban Heritage Conservation and Management Program for Dagupan City." When the plan is completed, Dagupan will be among the few cities in the country that will have an action plan that identifies its architectural heritage sites and defines proce-

FROM TAAL/ C2

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Depart for Singapore between September 1 & November 15 and get a cool souvenir plus the chance to win a *Uniquely Singapore* Grand Prize!

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And that's not all!
Singapore is also known for its year-round events, so find time to attend any one or two, or even three of these events lined up for you.

SEPTEMBER

01-30	SingArt - A Brush with Lions
01-30	Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-30	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-30	Tan Swie Hian
01-05	4th International Guitar Festival 2004
01-12	VOLUNTEER A DAY, VOLUNTEER WITH KINDNESS
01-13	Festival of the Hungry Ghosts
03-04	The Merry Widow
06-12	Cheers Asian Satellite Badminton Tournament
10	Singapore Hit Awards 2004
10-11	An Evening of Huang Mei Opera Tunes
11	Jeff Chang & Sky Wu Concert 2004
12	Comedy for U
16-30	Sing Song
17-26	Jewellery Time 2004
17-18	Fei Yu Qing Charity Concert & World Tour 2004
17-18	Russian Rousers
18-19	UIM F1 Powerboat World Championship
21-30	MAMMA MIA!
25	Lestari Seni - Tunas Warisan
25-26	12th SCC International Hockey Tournament
26	Sheares Bridge Run & Army Half Marathon 2004
28	Mid-Autumn Festival

OCTOBER

01-31	Singapore JewelFest 2004: Flights of Desire
01-31	Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-31	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-31	MAMMA MIA!
01-31	Tan Swie Hian
01-03	Sing Song
05-07	Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
09-31	Hari Raya Light-Up
14-22	Navarathiri Festival
14-31	Pilgrimage to Kusu Island
15-31	Deepavali Light-Up 2004
24	Action Asia Challenge

NOVEMBER

01-30	Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-30	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-30	MAMMA MIA!
01-11	Pilgrimage to Kusu Island
01-14	Deepavali Light-Up 2004
01	Theemidhi Festival
11	Deepavali
13-21	Singapore International Buskers Festival
14	Hari Raya Puasa

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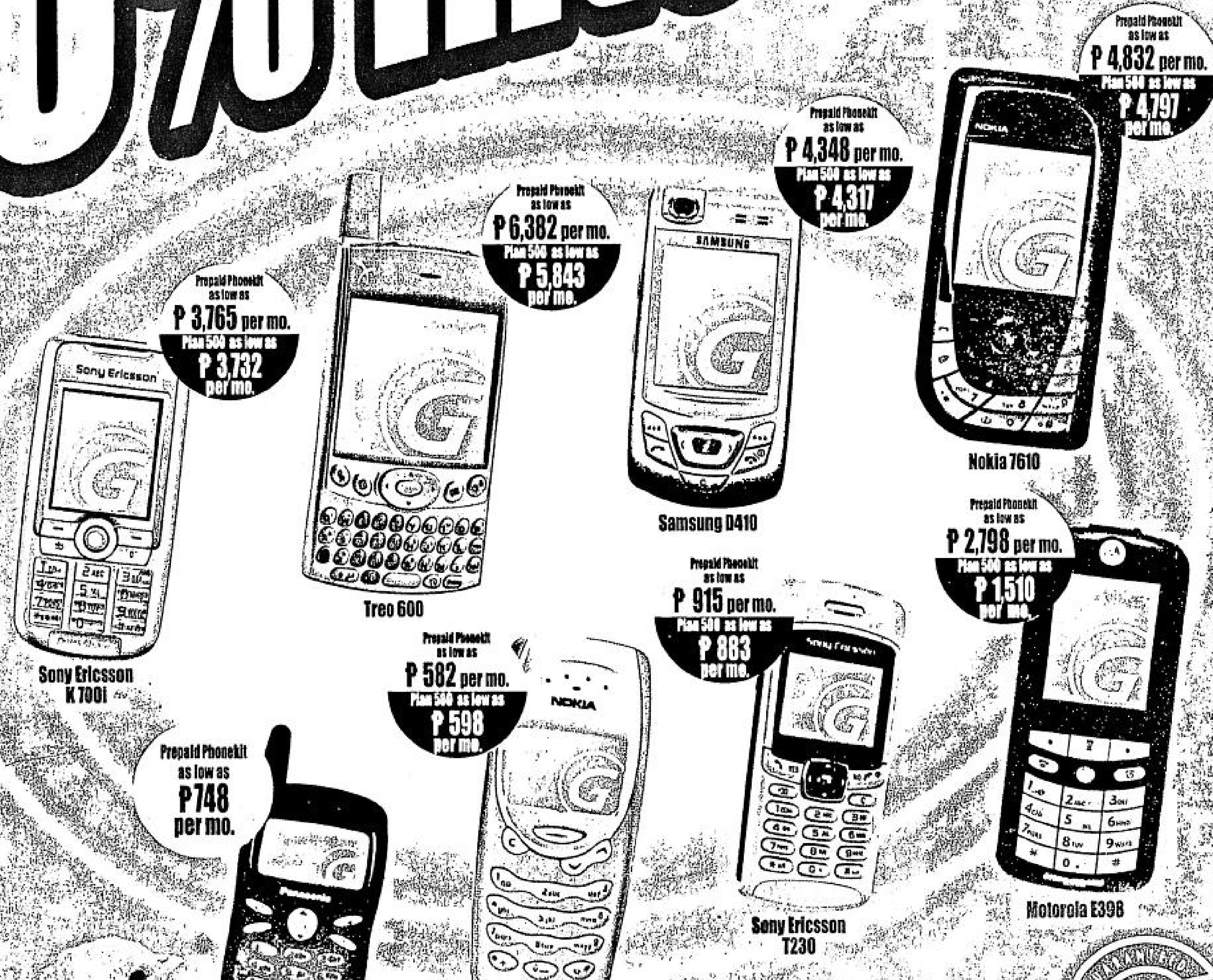

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Asian apostle of the great books

Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bangladesh, 2004 Ramon Magsaysay honoree for Literature, promotes reading and learning

SAYEED believes that an enlightened society requires enlightened citizens.

COULD reading the best books in the world be the answer to the problems of underdeveloped nations?

This year's Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts believes so.

"Only an enlightened and committed people can build a viable nation," says Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bangladesh. And, he adds, only a nation of avid readers can hope to gain the enlightenment and commitment that builds a nation. It is these twin convictions that moved him to establish the Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (World Literature Centre) in Dhaka in 1978.

A member, Rezwanul Islam, finance manager of ACNielsen Bangladesh Ltd., strongly agrees. "Had there been enough enlightened people around the world, fundamentalism and anarchy would not have spread," he says.

How much reading can do for a person (and by extrapolation, for nations) is something that Sayeed—poet, fictionist, essayist, professor, orator, environmentalist and once well-loved television host—has proven from personal experience.

Invariably described as learned, charismatic and highly amiable, Sayeed is said to captivate his audiences with his stimulating ideas and humorous anecdotes. In an interview posted at dailystarnews.com, Navine Murshid asked him what he was like as a schoolboy: "I think I was a dumb boy! My intellect progressed at a very slow rate. I was always the last person to understand a given problem, be it mathematics, science or even any normal conversation!"

How he dealt with that is highly instructive. "I trained myself to do better," he said.

Indeed, he has come a long way from that embarrassing moment. Born in Park Circus, Calcutta, in 1939, he presumably picked up his love for literature and teaching from his father, Azimuddin Ahmed, a well-known playwright and English teacher. He lost his mother, Begum Karimunnisa, at a very young age, but even then, he instinctively knew how to turn what he lacked into something positive.

Years later, when an interviewer, Rafi Hossain, asked him how he became such a fine orator, he replied: "From the time I lost my mother, I had a strong inferiority complex. A great void filled me. All the time I would wonder how I could fill this gap. I would be humble, and very respectful with people to earn their love. I noticed that those who speak well get a lot of attention from their listeners. So I would watch people who spoke well, and learn from them. I also read a lot of books, so I inevitably learnt from that."

As a young man he wrote poetry and fiction, and while completing his Bachelor of Arts with honors and then his Master of Arts in Bangladesh Literature from Dhaka College (later University) in the 1960s, he led a vibrant literary movement as editor of the magazine Kathashar (Voice). Afterwards, he moved over to television and became a popular TV host. He also taught literature for 25 years at Dhaka College.

Author

Now 65, Sayeed has published 10 books—one a collection of essays, another of literary criticism, two collections of poetry, two plays, one autobiographical account, a history of Bengal and Bengali literature, and a book on world classics. He has translated 25 world classics, edited 12 volumes of essays and poems and articles as supplementary reading for students and general readers.

That he has not written more attests to the price that he has generously paid to pursue his dream for his countrymen. Although he has done it willingly, he cannot but turn pensive at the thought of the enormous sacrifice that he made: giving up the great passions of his life—teaching, writing and hosting well-loved educational TV programs. He has truly dedicated his life to the creation of "a medium through which true freedom is attained—the freedom of the human spirit."

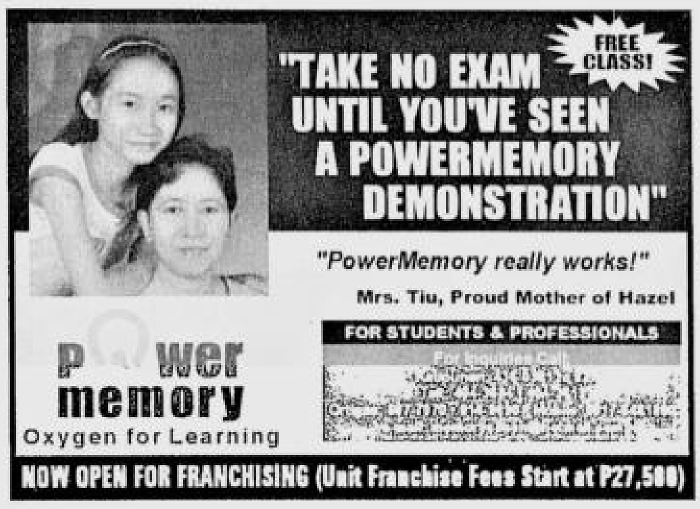
That medium is BSK. In 1978, saddened by the decline of intellectual life in Bangladesh, Sayeed founded the center to "enlighten human beings" by reviving interest in reading among the youth.

He had formed a study circle for that purpose in 1968. After it failed, he formed another one in 1978, with a few very talented young students who gravitated toward him. That study circle, which met once a week, was the beginning of the center. Every member had to read a book and participate in the discussion that he moderated. This went on for five years. The members read a total of 250 books over that period.

Critics of the practicality of Sayeed's dream may be interested to learn how the participants of that program turned out. One became an executive director of an export firm, another a chief executive officer of a hospital, two held important posts in the foreign office, five became secretaries in the government, and about a dozen found teaching posts overseas.

The World Literature Centre began in a small rented house that had 10 copies of a single book

ASIAN/ D3



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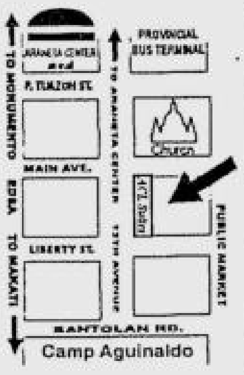

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NEOZEP Non-Drowsy
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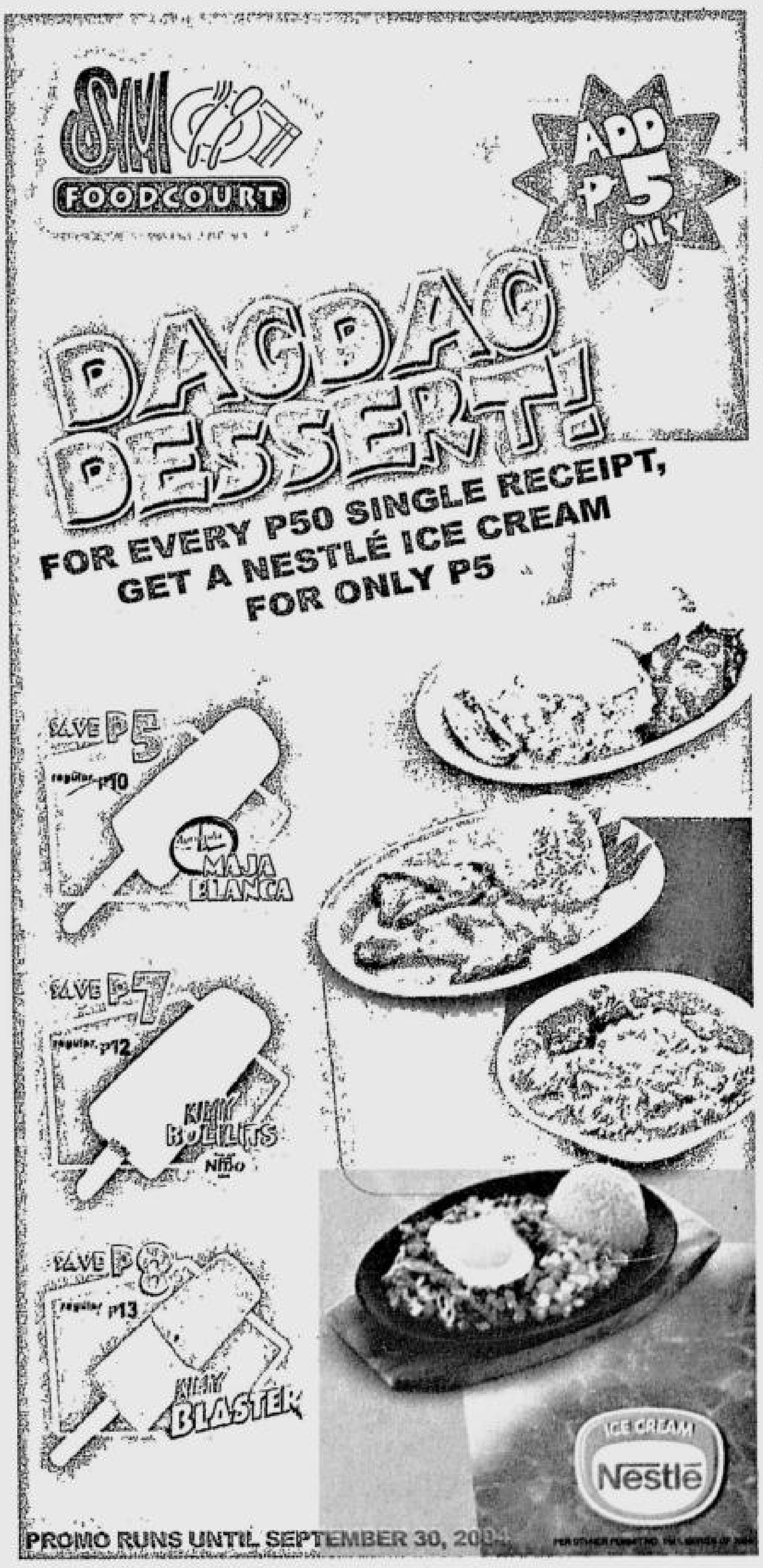

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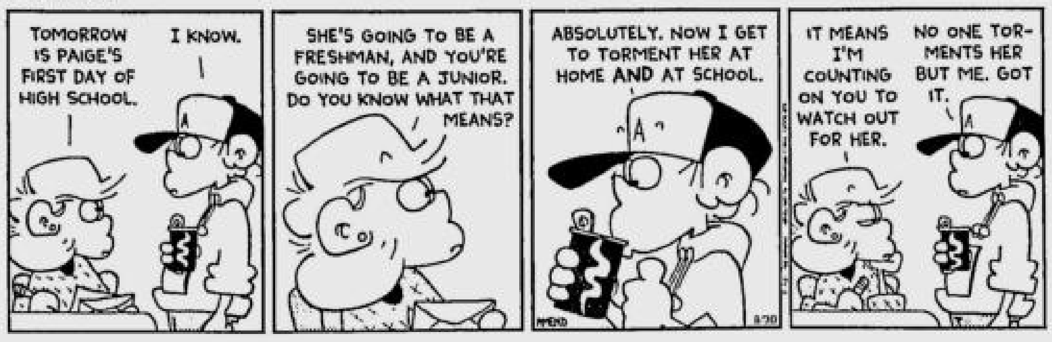
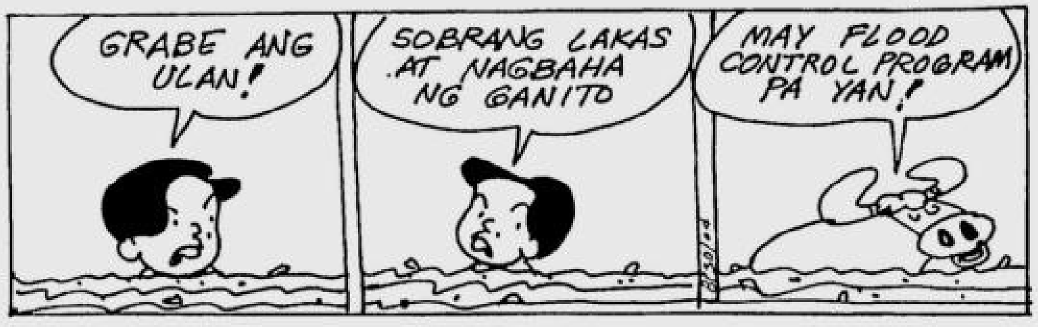
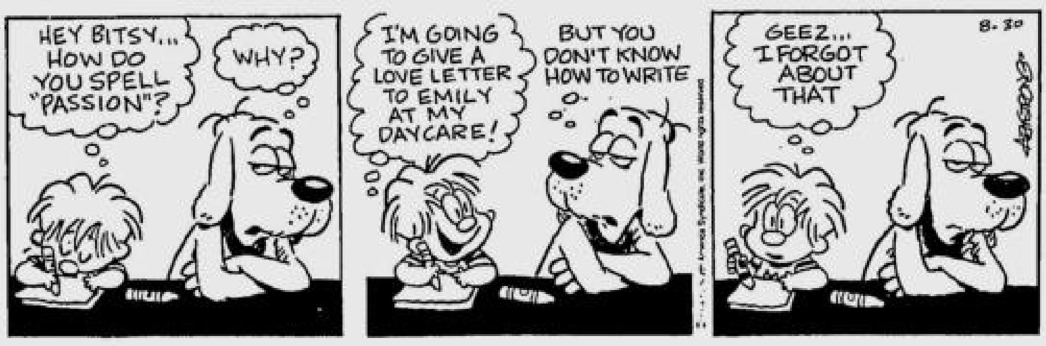
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


TOMORROW IS PAIGE'S FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL.
I KNOW.
SHE'S GOING TO BE A FRESHMAN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE A JUNIOR. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
ABSOLUTELY. NOW I GET TO TORMENT HER AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL.
IT MEANS I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO WATCH OUT FOR HER.
NO ONE TORMENTS HER BUT ME. GOT IT.
AMEND
8/30

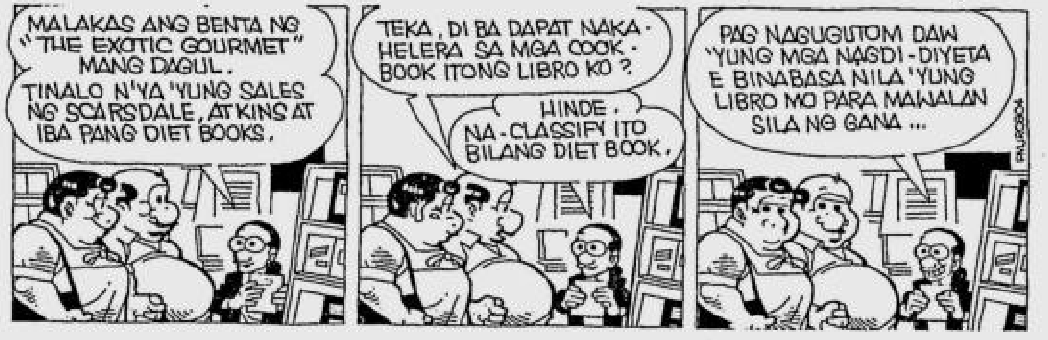
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE ANG ULAN!
SOBRANG LAKAS AT NAGBAHA NG GANITO
MAY FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM PA YAN!

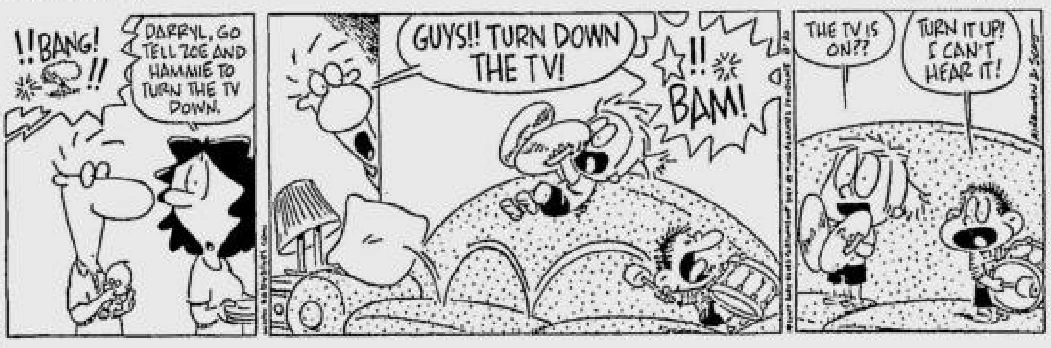
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY BITSY... HOW DO YOU SPELL "PASSION"?
WHY?
I'M GOING TO GIVE A LOVE LETTER TO EMILY AT MY DAYCARE!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE
GEEZ... I FORGOT ABOUT THAT
8-30
ARMSTRONG

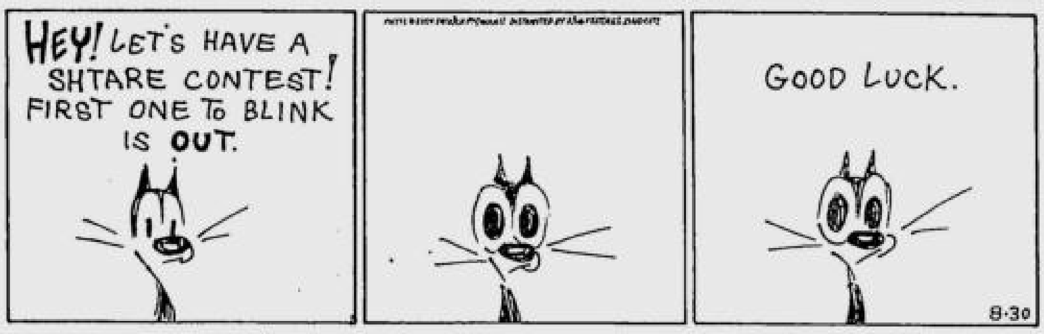
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALAKAS ANG BENTA NG "THE EXOTIC GOURMET" MANG DAGUL. TINALO N'YA 'YUNG SALES NG SCARSDALE, ATKINS AT IBA PANG DIET BOOKS.
TEKA, DI BA DAPAT NAKA-HELERA SA MGA COOK-BOOK ITONG LIBRO KO?
HINDE. NA-CLASSIFY ITO BILANG DIET BOOK.
PAG NAGUGUTOM DAW 'YUNG MGA NAGDI-DIYETA E BINABASA NILA 'YUNG LIBRO MO PARA MAWALAN SILA NG GANA ...

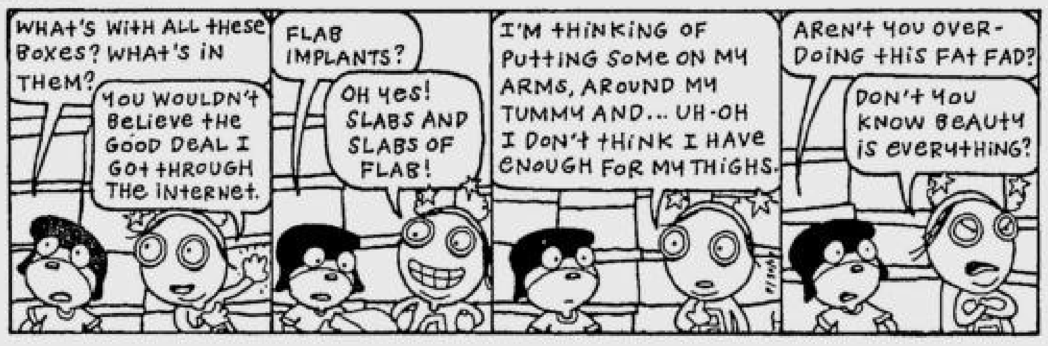
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


!!BANG!!!
DARRYL, GO TELL ZOE AND HAMMIE TO TURN THE TV DOWN.
GUYS!! TURN DOWN THE TV!
!! BAM!
THE TV IS ON??
TURN IT UP! I CAN'T HEAR IT!

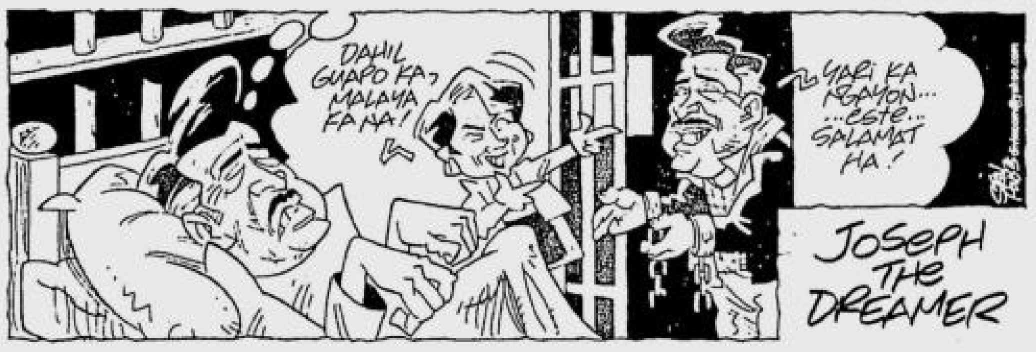
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY! LET'S HAVE A SHTARE CONTEST! FIRST ONE TO BLINK IS OUT.
GOOD LUCK.
8·30

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE BOXES? WHAT'S IN THEM?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE GOOD DEAL I GOT THROUGH THE INTERNET.
FLAB IMPLANTS?
OH YES! SLABS AND SLABS OF FLAB!
I'M THINKING OF PUTTING SOME ON MY ARMS, AROUND MY TUMMY AND... UH-OH I DON'T THINK I HAVE ENOUGH FOR MY THIGHS.
AREN'T YOU OVER-DOING THIS FAT FAD?
DON'T YOU KNOW BEAUTY IS EVERYTHING?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DAHIL GUAPO KA, MALAYA KA NA!
YARI KA NGAYON... ...ESTE... SALAMAT HA!
JOSEPH THE DREAMER

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Despite an easygoing façade, privately, you're organized, reliable and on top of your scene. You strive for impeccability. You have a fine, discerning mind. You're financially astute. You're often the rock of your family. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. All doors are open to you.
Birthdate of: Cameron Diaz, actress; Michael Chiklis, actor; Ted Williams, baseball great.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The worm has turned. You have a sense of finally getting your show on the road. Move forward with plans to make repairs and improvements, especially at work or to your health.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to start the week off. Think positively and set your standards high. You're back on track again. Expect to accomplish a lot in the immediate future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Relationships that have been wishy-washy start to become more clear one way or the other. You have a better sense of what needs to be done now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): At a deep, private level, you might be rethinking religious and philosophical (even political) values. Go with what feels right in your gut. Trust your intuition.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Plans to make your life creatively more enjoyable (whether personally or through your children) become feasible now. Your future is brighter than you'd hoped!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Now is the time to move forward with those repairs that are needed at home. Ironically, these repairs need not be physical; they might also be emotional repairs to broken family relationships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Siblings and relatives might need your help, and now you can see where you can help and where you cannot. (You can only do what you can do.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your ruler, Pluto, moves forward today after being retrograde for more than five months. This gives your whole life a sense of moving forward toward a goal in a more effective way. Finally!

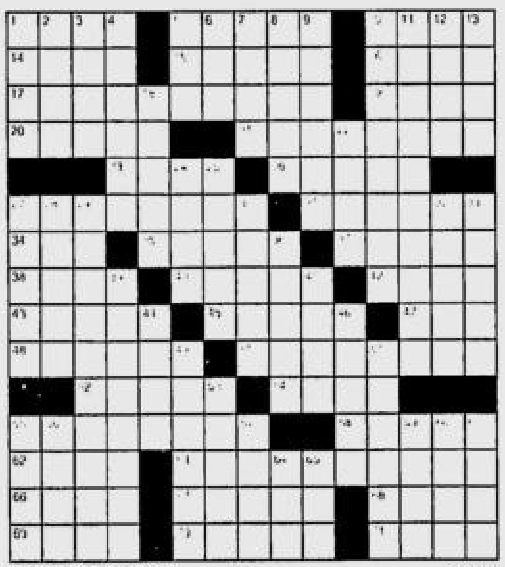
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some of your closest relationships have undergone tremendous changes. Starting today, you feel much of this is now behind you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Dealings with the government and large institutions can move forward with more ease now. People will listen to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Friendship is important to your sign. Now you have a better idea about which friends are worth keeping. (This is a good thing to know.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're starting to get a better idea about the direction you want to go. For some time now, you've been wondering what you really want to be when you grow up.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/30/04

ACROSS
1 Bombard
5 Bee gathering
10 A way away
14 Orchestra member
15 Craze
16 Cocktail garnish
17 Sabbath before Easter
19 Writer Bagnold
20 Graceful girl
21 Places for keeping goods
23 Poetic meadows
26 Mountain ridge
27 Prized
31 Sleeper's comments?
34 Cheering sound
35 Austin resident
37 Once around the sun
38 Cassowary kin
40 Happen again and again
42 Hindu discipline
43 Pause mark
45 Fragment
47 For what reason?
48 Small drums
50 Blacktops
52 Overcast and clear, e.g.
54 Harrow rival
55 Warm, cheerful brightness
58 Aggregate
62 Lotion ingredient
63 Beautifully
66 Current events
67 Classic hit
68 Modern Persia
69 Camping home
70 Plop back down
71 N. Eng. state

DOWN
1 Colas
2 Internet auction site
3 Recline lazily
4 Place of worship
5 Tex. campus
6 Ashen
7 Common conjunctions
8 Lanai
9 City VIPs
10 Dependent on chance
11 Rinsing dish on the table
12 Henri's girlfriend
13 Cincinnati nine
18 Thin layer
22 Vegas rival
24 Part of USA
25 Male and female
27 Put up
28 South Pacific island group
29 Gesture of rejection
30 Capital of Bangladesh
32 Skater's figure
33 Remains
36 Hospital employee
39 Most murky
41 Absorbed
44 Diva's song
46 Pic
49 Man from Manaus
51 Socially unstable
53 Ascend
55 Talk wildly
56 Toward shelter
57 Finishes
59 Mr. T's last name
60 Sillitoe or Bates
61 Actress Redgrave
64 Hall of MIV
65 In position

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	S	I	A	■	R	O	S	A	R	I	E	S
A	P	H	I	D	S	■	E	N	T	R	A	C	T	E
T	R	A	D	E	S	■	S	W	I	M	M	E	R	S
A	I	R	E	S	■	S	T	A	C	Y	■	B	U	S
L	O	P	■	■	S	T	O	R	K	■	P	E	R	I
P	R	E	R	E	C	O	R	D	S	■	T	R	I	O
A	I	R	E	D	A	L	E	■	■	H	O	G	A	N
■	■	■	D	I	N	E	■	G	O	O	S	■	■	■
S	P	O	R	T	■	■	S	U	N	V	I	S	O	R
P	I	C	A	■	S	T	A	T	U	E	S	Q	U	E
A	N	E	W	■	T	R	U	S	S	■	■	U	T	E
R	N	A	■	B	R	I	N	Y	■	D	R	A	W	L
S	A	N	D	I	E	S	T	■	S	O	I	R	E	E
E	T	I	O	L	A	T	E	■	A	P	P	E	A	R
R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R	■	M	E	S	S	R	S

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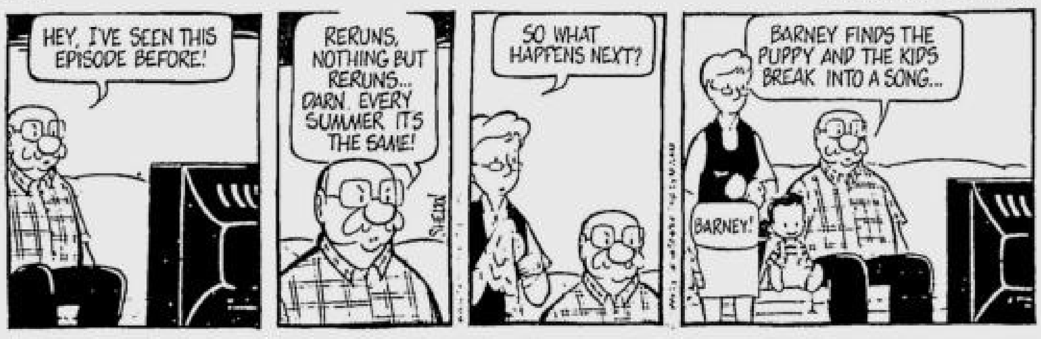
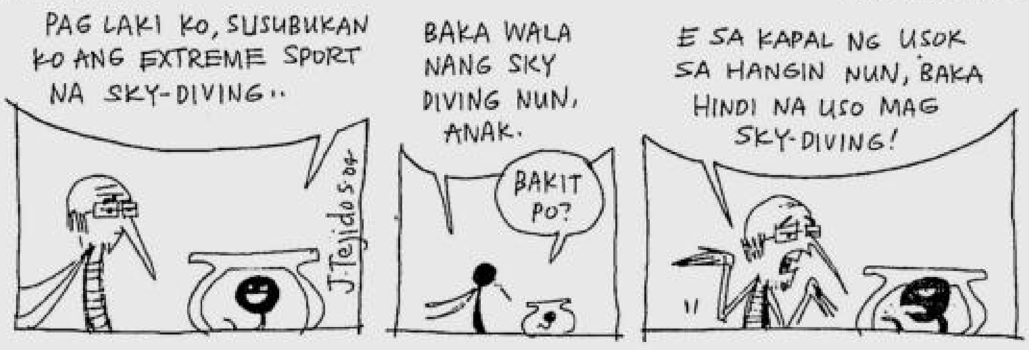
8/28/04

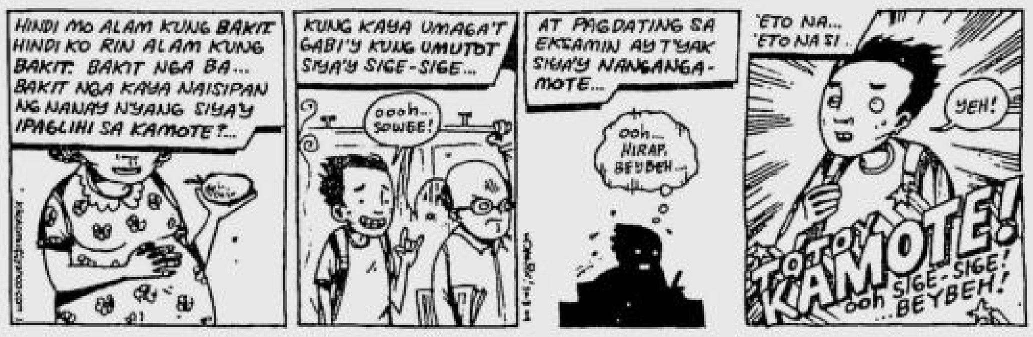
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY, I'VE SEEN THIS EPISODE BEFORE!
RERUNS, NOTHING BUT RERUNS... DARN. EVERY SUMMER IT'S THE SAME!
SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
BARNEY FINDS THE PUPPY AND THE KIDS BREAK INTO A SONG...
BARNEY!

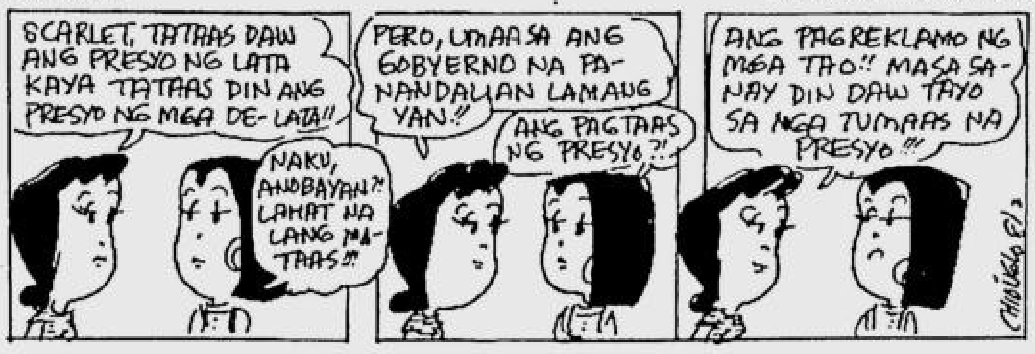
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAG LAKI KO, SUSUBUKAN KO ANG EXTREME SPORT NA SKY-DIVING..
BAKA WALA NANG SKY DIVING NUN, ANAK.
BAKIT PO?
E SA KAPAL NG USOK SA HANGIN NUN, BAKA HINDI NA USO MAG SKY-DIVING!
J.Tejido 5-04

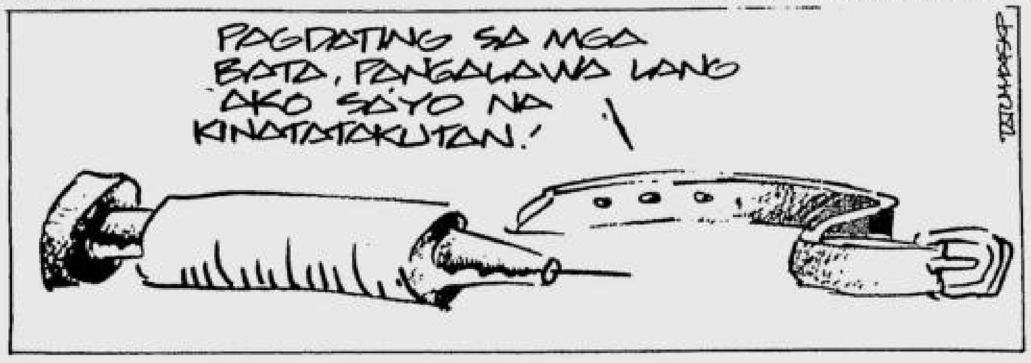
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HINDI MO ALAM KUNG BAKIT HINDI KO RIN ALAM KUNG BAKIT. BAKIT NGA BA... BAKIT NGA KAYA NAISIPAN NG NANAY NYANG SIYA'Y IPAGLIHI SA KAMOTE?...
KUNG KAYA UMAGA'T GABI'Y KUNG UMUTOT SIYA'Y SIGE-SIGE...
oooh... SOWEE!
AT PAGDATING SA EKSAMIN AY T'YAK SIYA'Y NANGANGAMOTE...
ooh... HIRAP, BEYBEH...
'ETO NA... 'ETO NA SI...
YEH!
TOTOY KAMOTE!
ooh SIGE-SIGE! ...BEYBEH!

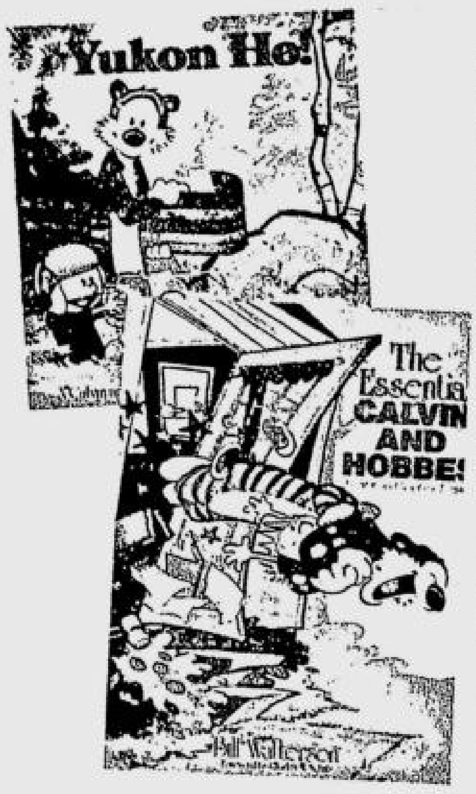
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, TATAAS DAW ANG PRESYO NG LATA KAYA TATAAS DIN ANG PRESYO NG MGA DE-LATA!!
NAKU, ANOBAYAN?! LAHAT NA LANG MATAAS!!
PERO, UMAASA ANG GOBYERNO NA PANANDALIAN LAMANG YAN!!
ANG PAGTAAS NG PRESYO?!
ANG PAGREKLAMO NG MGA TAO!! MASASANAY DIN DAW TAYO SA MGA TUMAAS NA PRESYO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAGDATING SA MGA BATA, PANGALAWA LANG AKO SAYO NA KINATATAKUTAN!

Spotlight on 'Calvin and Hobbes' author


Yukon Ho!
The Essential CALVIN AND HOBBES
Bill Watterson

BILL Watterson's comic strip, "Calvin and Hobbes," is the engaging chronicle of a 6-year-old's psyche. The strip, first syndicated in 1985, was carried in more than 2,400 newspapers when it ceased publication in 1996.

More than 23 million "Calvin and Hobbes" books are in print, and each of the 14 book collections has been a million-seller within the first year of publication. The most recent collection, "The Calvin and Hobbes Tenth Anniversary Book," was published in the fall of 1995 by Andrews McMeel and rose to No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list.

In 1986, Bill became the youngest person to win the prestigious Reuben Award for "Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year" from the National Cartoonists Society. He won the award again in 1988.

PowerBooks Specialty Store offers Waterson's books. It has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), and Glorietta (7527075).

Big book launching marks New Day's 35th year

PIONEER Filipiniana and religious publishing group New Day Publishers will hold a mega book launch tomorrow, 2 p.m., in celebration of its 35th founding anniversary at the Balay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Guest of honor and speaker is Florangel Rosario-Braid, president of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication and author of numerous books on communication, information technology and continuing education.

According to New Day executive director Bezalie Uc-Kung, the publishing house will launch 12 books on Philippine history and ethnology, Asian contemporary history, inspirational reading, theology and spirituality, and feature story writing penned by eminent Filipino and foreign authors.

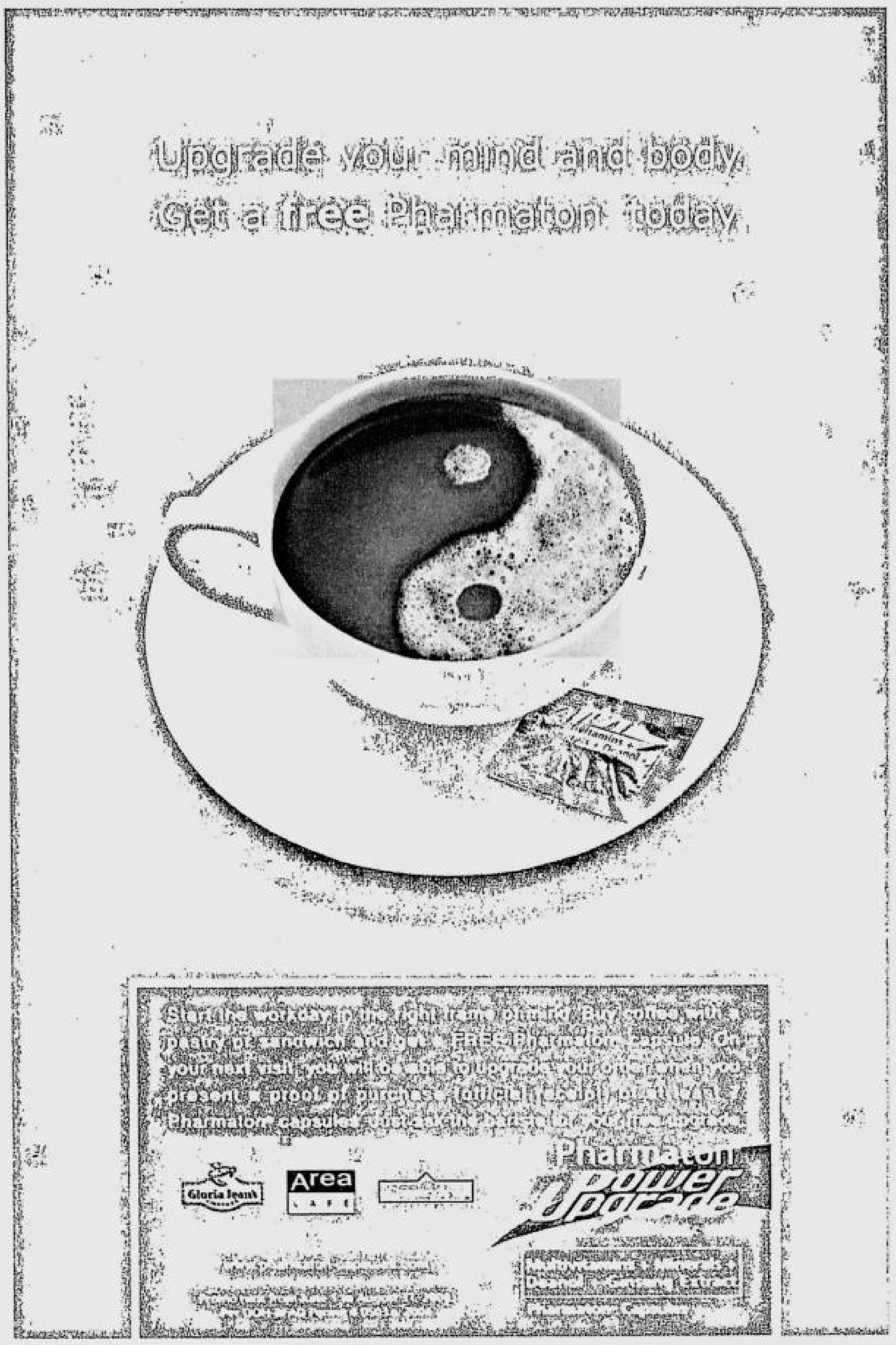
A 10 percent across-the-board discount will be applied on purchases on the new titles during the event.

Uc-Kung added that this year's theme is "Plowing the Field, Sowing the Seeds, Reaping the Fruit, Sharing the Bounty of the Harvest," which is based on the Biblical parable of the sower who scattered seeds on different forms of soil.

New Day Publishers was founded in 1969 by the Christian Literature Society of the Philippines, an ecumenical group to provide books for spiritual and intellectual upliftment.

The publishing house is noted for its books on child psychology, organizational development, historical literary fiction, and children's comic books and has a stable of renowned authors such as James Francis Warren, Dr. Tom Andres, Sen. Juan Flavier, and the late literary masters Edilberto Tiempo and William Henry Scott.

Call 9288046, 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph.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Asian apostle . . .

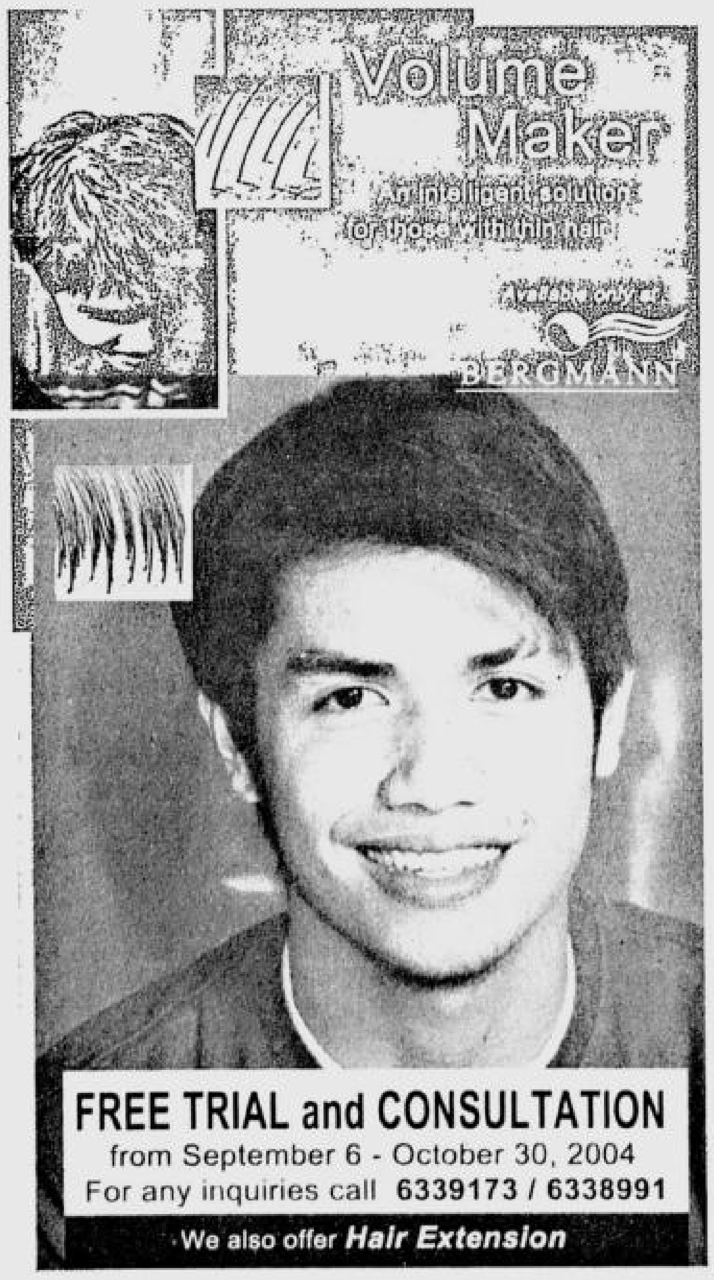
From page D1

in mathematics. Now the center has its own building at Bangla Motor and boasts of more than 100,000 books on literature, science, philosophy, religion, politics. Cultural programs and film showings are also held in the center.

Sayeed laments that "education, the backbone of a nation, is now in shambles..." This is so, he says, because "the core purpose of education—to enlighten a person—has been overlooked." Good books, he points out, are a logical source of enlightenment.

Sayeed believes that "better knowledge of world history and the eagerness to emulate great persons' struggle for great causes would enable people to become better persons." Thus, he wants to create a hunger for the pleasure of the search for knowledge.

The Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremonies will be held tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Call 5213166 to 85.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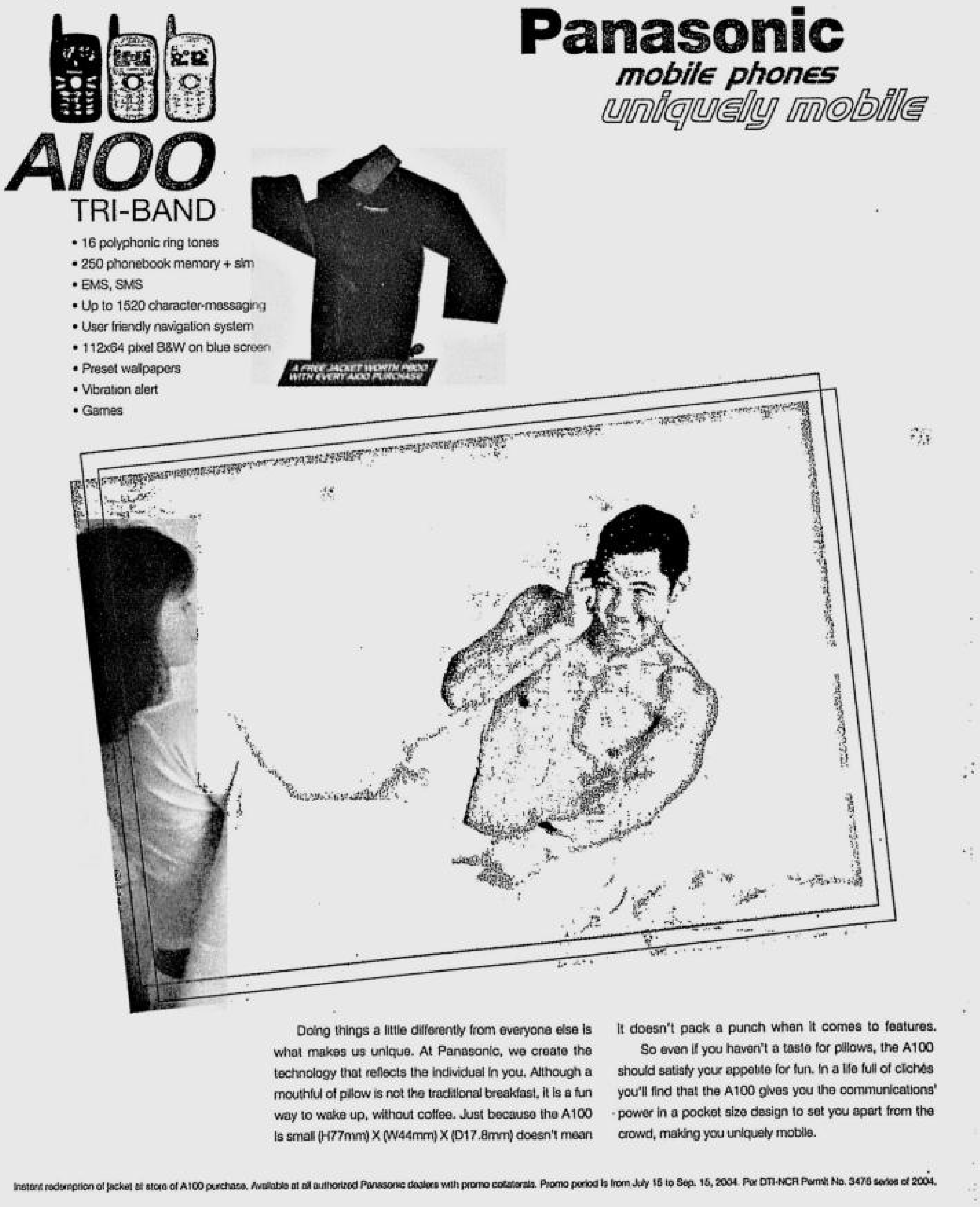
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REYNALDO Reyes

Reynaldo Reyes, awesome virtuoso

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

AT THE end of Prokofieff's Sonata No. 6, Op. 82, which capped the recital of my daughter Hiyas at the residence of Unesco Commissioner Carmen D. Padilla last year, pianist Reynaldo Reyes told me he would be giving an all-Prokofieff recital.

Recently, at Philamlife Auditorium, Reyes electrified Manila's piano lovers with a dashing performance of the works of the Russian composer, Serge Prokofieff (1891-1953). The show consisted of two sonatas, the third and the seventh; a miniature work consisting of 20 pieces, "Visions Fugitives," Op. 22; and a transcription of the ballet music, "Romeo and Juliet," Op. 75.

Reyes is noted for his unique programming that evokes an exceptional theme. Whether he is playing all-Philippine pieces, an all-etude program or song transcription program, he does it with élan that discloses his thorough understanding and commanding technical brilliance.

Prokofieff wrote brilliantly and, of course, wittily for the piano. His search for individuality is best appreciated in his innovative use of a wide range of colors, astute use of dissonances, and virtuoso technical demand, which most often smacks of subtle mockery.

Professor Reyes readily gave a quintessential reading of Prokofieff's engrossing pianism. In the opening number, the "Visions Fugitives," he essayed with solid dispatch the short, swift poetic sketches with biting appeal, vividly portraying a variety of moods that were at times comical but movingly lyrical, even if threatened by dissonance and percussiveness.

In the two sonatas, which are reputedly more popular than the rest of his sonatas, owing perhaps to their brevity, the third being a sonata in one movement, and the seventh solidly compact, Reyes was awesome: power and singing tones combined to indeed ensure pleasurable listening.

Percussiveness did not translate into banging. The beauty of his playing was that he made his notes sing, and throughout, his tones were dashingly handsome as they were made to sing rather than be forced out. Virtuosity was wondrously displayed in these works.

Reyes struck a pompous, driving opening in the third sonata (allegro tempestoso), and concluded with a brilliant sense of urgency, all disclosing powerful agility. He stunned his listeners with his virtuosity in the last movement, precipitato, of the seventh sonata, what with its perpetual motion scored in toccata fashion leading to a towering climax. Prokokieff had himself identified motor dexterity as an element of his piano works.

Three pieces from the transcription of "Romeo and Juliet," played with a short introduction as Professor Reyes himself announced, certainly prepared the listeners for a more intensive listening to the seventh sonata.

All told, Reyes, who comes home regularly to share his talent, is indeed a rare gem. Apart from enriching piano performance with his wide knowledge of piano literature, he has unselfishly lent his expertise and pedagogic skill in honing the country's promising talents through the holding of master classes and outright coaching.

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UST Symphony opens concert series at CCP

THE UST Conservatory of Music, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), starts its concert series on Sept. 3 at 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Abelardo (Main Theater), featuring the UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Arnel O. Feliciano.

The concert features Richard Strauss' *Suite in B-flat, op. 4 for 13 Wind Instruments*, Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony no. 8*, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra* with former Namcya prizewinner Jose Jasper Andra as tuba soloist.

The concert series, extending until March 2005, includes concerts at the Cultural Center Main Theater, Francisco Santiago Hall of the Equitable-PCI Bank Building, in cooperation with the MCO Foundation, Philamlife Auditorium in cooperation with the Philamlife Insurance Co. and various Faculty Concerts at the UST Conservatory of Music Recital Halls.

Featured performers are the performing faculty, alumni and students of the Conservatory, the different student performing groups including the Symphony Orchestra, Symphony band, jazz band, Coro Tomasino, Liturgikon Vocal Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Rondalla and selected chamber groups.

The series is capped by the 21st "Sampung Mga Daliri atbp.," the annual event highlighted by 10 pianos playing on stage.

Subscriptions and tickets are available at the UST Conservatory (7314022; 7313101 loc. 8246) and the CCP Box Office. Student and senior citizen discounts are honored.

WRITER and performance artist Nerisa Guevara

Poetess launches book of poetry and CD of songs

NERISA del Carmen Guevara, junior associate of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies and multi-awarded poet, will be launching her debut collection of poems titled "Reaching Destination" at 9 p.m. on Aug. 31 at Conspiracy Garden Cafe, Visayas Ave. Quezon City.

Published by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, "Reaching Destination" is a collection of poetry written by Guevara from 1994 to 2004. It is about the poetess' wait for the one word that will lead her to the one line that will bring her back home.

"Reaching Destination" is also the first poetry book set to music by top local alternative artists. The CD, under the same title, features artists such as Barbie Almalbis, Carol Bello, Badjao and Acid42. All tracks were mixed by Bob Aves of Tao Records and mastered by Zach Lucero.

A CD-and-book package will be available at discounted prices during the launch.

Call 7313101 loc. 8281 or e-mail sa_dagat@yahoo.com.

Lecture-forum on Filipino language across the disciplines

THE FACULTY of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas, in cooperation with the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, will conduct a lecture-forum as part of the University's Buwan ng Wika Celebration. Dubbed "Filipino sa Iba't Ibang Diskurso (Mula sa Dila at Diwa ng mga Tomasino)," the forum will be held today at 2 p.m. at the Audio Visual Room of St. Raymund's Building, ground floor, UST Campus, España, Manila.

The forum, which aims to elevate the use of the Filipino language in academic and social discourse, will be composed of three parts. Prof. Florentino Hornedo will deliver the paper, "Pilosopiya ng Wikang Filipino, Pilosopiya sa Wikang Filipino." Atty. Reynaldo Lopez will discuss "Ang Kakayahan ng Wikang Filipino Para sa Usaping Pampulitika." Dean Fortunato Sevilla III of the UST College of Science will round off the forum with "Ang Kakayahan ng Wikang Filipino sa Pagtuturo at Pagkatuto ng Agham."

The activity is open to the public. Call 7313101 loc. 8281.

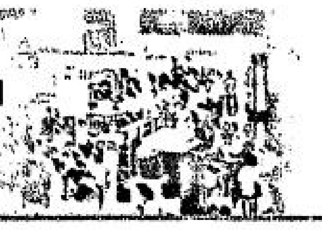
■ Sports / A21

Athens Olympics ends; see you in Beijing 2008

■ Business / B1

Peza chief sues Cebu firm's execs

Shorter mall hours loom



■ Across / A16

NBI breaks up gang selling teachers' test

Tanong ng Bayan / A18

Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?

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INQUIRER
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Tuesday, August 31, 2004 ★★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 265 P18

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Cops sleeping on job to be 'captured' on cam

BASTA NAKA SUNGLASS AT NAKA NGA-NGA!

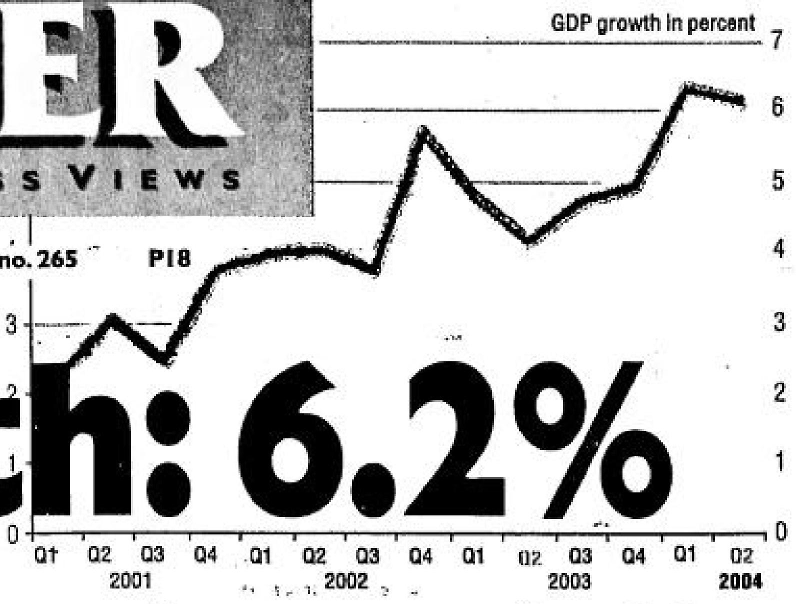
By Christian Esguerra and Edson Tandoc Jr.

STAY awake, you're on camera.

Policemen will soon be dispatched to "shoot" comrades literally sleep-

COPS/ A8

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:
The market value of all final goods and services produced within the country



Surprise growth: 6.2%

Poll spending, mobile phone usage boosted economy in Q2

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

ELECTION spending and higher usage of cellular phones allowed the Philippine economy to grow by 6.2 percent in April-June despite the government's fragile fiscal position.

This lifted the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP), the total value of goods produced and services rendered in the country, in the first six months to 6.3 percent, up from 4.5 percent in the same period last year.

Neighboring countries, however, are growing at much robust rates. Malaysia posted 8 percent; Hong Kong, 12.1 percent; Taiwan, 7.7 percent; China, 9.6 percent, and Singapore, 12.5 percent.

The country's gross national product (GNP), which combines the GDP with net factor income from abroad, grew by a slower 5.7 percent in the second quarter, down from 6.5 percent a year ago.

This was due to the "negligible" 0.3-percent growth in net factor income, which includes remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). Compensation income of OFWs grew by only 3.3 percent, much weaker than the 11.5-percent growth posted last year.

While the government was expecting to meet the full-year GDP growth target of 4.9 to 5.8 percent, it said the growth rate in the first six months could not be sustained for the rest of the year due

SURPRISE/ A6

IN THE KNOW

Why is the economy growing despite the fiscal crisis?

An economy can grow despite the government's huge public deficit and debt burden because growth in key sectors can still lift up the economy.

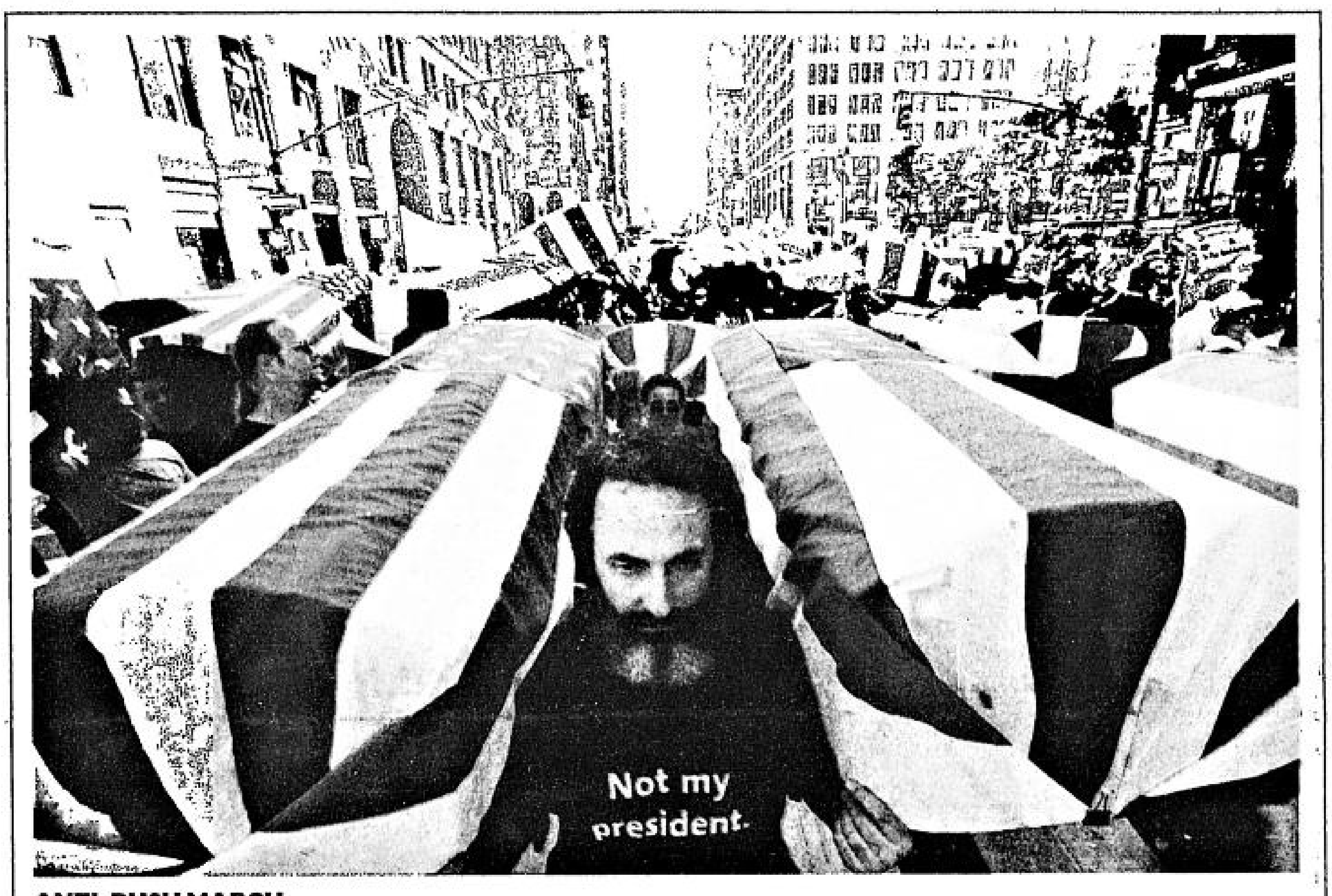
In our case, the major drivers of growth were personal consumption and services.

Personal consumption was particularly boosted by remittances sent home by OFWs, while the booming telecommunication and call center industries enhanced the services sector, said former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, head of the Ateneo Center for Economic Development.

"The question is, does this growth create new jobs?" he said.

Jobless growth occurs when an economy expands but no new jobs are created. When this happens, economic growth cannot help reduce poverty or promote human development.

PDI RESEARCH
SOURCES: AFP, interview with Cielito Habito of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development



Not my president.

ANTI-BUSH MARCH
Stanley Sherman helps carry flag-draped caskets, representing US fatalities in Iraq, past Madison Square Garden during a 100,000-strong march against President George W. Bush on the eve of the Republican Party's convention in New York. *(See story in The World, Page A10.)* AP

Silliman alumni donate jewelry to gov't

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The party guests removed their jewelry and dropped them into a bag. They were smiling; they were not being held up.

It was a reunion of Silliman University's High School Class 1962 and the members agreed that this special part of the program beat the usual telling of recycled stories.

Their aim was to donate the "catch" to the government, to help defray the country's financial deficit estimated at P3 trillion.

"These will probably add up to just a small amount, but it comes from our hearts," said class president Hector "Tata" Villanueva, who is also the mayor of Bais City. "We feel that if every Filipino did something like this, even if they give only P5 each, it would translate to a very big sum."

Among the items given up during the gathering on Saturday were gold rings, bracelets and necklaces. Villanueva declined to give an estimate of their total worth, saying it would defeat the purpose.

"It might sound like a flower dance," he explained, referring to a traditional fund-raising

SILLIMAN/ A8

Gov't prescribes higher power rates, new taxes

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

HIGHER power rates and additional taxes are the government's antidote to the fiscal crisis.

The rates of the National Power Corp. would go up by P1.85 per kilowatt-hour to generate P75 billion and new taxes would be imposed to raise P80 billion if Malacañang had its way.

These two bitter pills, which the administration wants the public to swallow, were part of the six-year fiscal plan financial managers unveiled yesterday at a hearing called by the Senate ways and means committee.

"In short, Juan de la Cruz will be hit by a double whammy: P80 billion from his left pocket; P75 billion from his right pocket … for a total of P155 billion," said Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the committee, pointing to loopholes in the fiscal plan.

"All I'm saying is that you don't need to hit Juan de la Cruz with

GOV'T/ A5

House leaders agree to 38% cut in pork

By Cynthia D. Balana

LEADERS of the House of Representatives yesterday "approved in principle" a 38-percent cut in their pork barrel for next year as their contribution to efforts by the government to solve the fiscal crisis and avert an economic meltdown.

Emerging from a four-hour, all-party caucus, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he was happy that a consensus on the Malacañang's proposal to cut the lawmakers' pork barrel—officially known as the Priority Assistance Development Fund—had been achieved.

"There were very vigorous objections during the caucus, but we're glad we were able to reach a consensus," he said.

De Venecia said the pork barrel of each congressman for 2005 would be reduced to P20 million for the PDAF and to P20 million for the public works fund. The proposed pork barrel is 38 percent lower than the current level of P65 million.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said he and other House leaders did not have much choice. "We're forced to good since it (pork barrel) was already cut in the proposed budget anyway," he said.

But opposition lawmakers said the sentiment during the caucus

HOUSE/ A8

Another BIR official suspended

By Armand N. Nocum

YET ANOTHER official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue has felt the sting of the Ombudsman's whip.

Revenue Officer 4 Jaime Marzan was ordered placed under preventive suspension for substantial increases in his net worth over three years "which appear to be unjustified by his annual income," the Ombudsman's office said yesterday.

It said Marzan also allegedly failed to include assets purportedly owned by him and/or his wife—estimated to be worth

ANOTHER/ A6

A CHANGE in the mode of transportation for this family is a banca that will take them to their village in Calasiao, Pangasinan, after Typhoon "Marce" flooded the main street. ROGER MARGALLO

Expert blames rich, poor folk for C. Luzon flooding

By Volt Contreras

THE RICH and their fishponds, their housing projects and their logging operations. The poor and their dependence on artesian wells. And the government's failure to enforce laws regulating them.

These were the major human factors cited yesterday by noted geologist Kelvin Rodolfo in explaining the worsening floods that hit Metro Manila and Central Luzon each year.

Rodolfo spoke before students of the University of the Philippines as the number of dead and missing from the flooding that ravaged a wide area of Luzon rose to 41, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

The floods forced 27,523 people to flee to evacuation centers and affected 1.3 million people. Relief officials said the "affected" list included those whose homes were flooded or damaged, or who could not pursue their livelihood.

A total of 18 provinces, 19 cities, 152 municipalities and 1,317 barangays across Luzon suffered from the floods.

Rodolfo said rivers in Pampanga had not only heavily accumulated silt as a result of Mount Pinatubo's eruption in 1991 but had also lost their natural curves due to illegally expanded fishponds.

"There are fishponds which are 30 hectares on paper, but aerial photos show they are actually 60 hectares," he said. Because their

EXPERT/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/31/04

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Controlling population not DOH's job–Dayrit

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT IS not the Department of Health's job to provide contraceptives.

This was what Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday when asked to define the government's family planning program.

"It's not our responsibility to plan the size of Filipino families or control the population. It is not the health department's responsibility to provide contraceptives. That's not my job as secretary of health," he said.

Dayrit said the government's family planning program operates from the perspective of ensuring the health of the family—not managing population or espousing women's rights.

He added that the government is standing pat on its decision not to buy contraceptives or distribute more than what organizations had donated to health centers.

Dayrit clarified that population management was the work of society. "Don't (expect) the health department to control population because if you do, you will be extremely disappointed. It's not going to work—and you can quote me on that," he said.

It was the first time the DOH boldly declared that it was not concerned with managing the population.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had said the country's population and growth rate were still not a problem, the health chief said.

The President, a devout Catholic, said early in her term that she did not believe the country's swelling population aggravated the poverty situation.

"Don't expect her to say that population is a problem or that she will work to bring (the population growth rate) down," Dayrit said when asked about the government's position on family planning amid calls to check population rate.

The government is convinced that it will be able to provide the social service requirements of the current population of 84 million, albeit "with difficulty," Dayrit said.

Unemployment, however, remains a huge problem with more than three million Filipinos jobless. Public schools also lack classrooms, teachers, books and other facilities due to the large number of students who enroll in state schools.

The population is growing at an average of 5,800 people every 24 hours. In six years, the country will have 12.6 million more people—the population of Metro Manila.

The government, through its joint project with Couples for Christ, brought in international natural family planning advocate Mercedes Wilson.

Shorter work week, longer car ban proposed

By Cynthia D. Balana

REP. ROBERT "ACE" Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) yesterday proposed a nationwide four-day work week and three-day car ban as part of austerity measures aimed at reducing the budget deficit.

His proposal, however, exempts the President, Vice President, Senate President, House Speaker, Supreme Court chief justice, the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and those engaged in the delivery of basic services such as public works, hospital services and ambulances, doctors, food deliveries and vehicles on emergencies.

Barbers acknowledged that his proposal was draconian and controversial but insisted that the present economic crisis called for sacrifices.

He said banning government vehicles on the road and adopting a four-day work schedule would generate substantial savings on fuel and utility costs, as well as savings on transportation and food. It would also lessen pollution and ease traffic that consumes a lot of energy and power, he said.

Barbers noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had already taken the initiative by cutting down on the number of vehicles in her convoy and that the rest of bureaucracy should follow.

"We cannot convince people to take austerity measures if they see their leaders riding in expensive, luxurious gas guzzlers which they know were bought with public funds," the congressman said.

GMA won't explore oil deal with China

By TJ Burgonio

A POSSIBLE joint oil exploration between the Philippines and China in the disputed Spratly Islands will not be part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's agenda when she visits China on Sept. 1 to 3, foreign affairs officials said yesterday.

The President, who is leaving tomorrow for the three-day state visit, will hold bilateral talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and military chief Jiang Zemin on a broad range of issues, including security, trade and investment.

Ms Arroyo is expected to witness the signing of major agreements on railways, energy and fisheries between the two countries.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo dashed hopes of a possible joint oil exploration venture between Manila and Beijing in the mineral-rich Spratlys, saying any type of exploration with another country was banned under Philippine laws.

"The Constitution is very clear on the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources," Romulo, who will be part of the lean official delegation to Beijing, said at a press briefing.

But the Philippines may urge Beijing to allow joint use of a reef in the Spratlys, the Associated Press reported quoting foreign affairs officials.

China first built structures on the Philippines-claimed Mischief Reef, also known as Panganiban Reef, in 1995, then fortified them three years later, prompting protests from Manila. Beijing later promised to open the facilities for joint use "when conditions are ripe."

"The Philippines believes the existing conditions encourage such a positive step and seeks a clearer understanding with China on this issue," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a paper on Philippine-China relations ahead of Ms Arroyo's visit.

The Spratlys straddle important shipping lanes, are teeming with fish and are believed to be rich in oil and natural gas. China, Vietnam and Taiwan claim the entire chain, while the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia claim some of the islands.

In 2002, China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted a non-binding declaration that forbids construction on uninhabited islands.

Romulo said he was "not aware" if an agreement on joint military exercises would be hammered out during the visit. Chinese officials had proposed the holding of joint exercises between China and Asean. *With AFP, AP reports*

Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation

PHILCOMSAT

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In the Order dated August 20, 2004 of the **Securities and Exchange Commission** in connection with SEC Case No. 12-03-03, the Commission upheld the validity of the annual stockholders' meeting conducted by the **Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC)** held on **August 5, 2004,** and the annual stockholders' meeting of **Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat)** held **on August 9, 2004**, both led by Amb. Manuel H. Nieto, Jr.

Pursuant to this declaration of validity, the following are the members of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers of POTC and Philcomsat, respectively:

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1. Manuel H. Nieto, Jr.
2. Enrique L. Locsin
3. Manuel D. Andal
4. Guy S. de Leon
5. Lourdes A. Africa
6. Marietta K. Ilusorio
7. Concepcion A. Poblador

OFFICERS:

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Vice-Chairman - Enrique L. Locsin
President - Manuel H. Nieto, Jr.
Vice-President - Concepcion A. Poblador
Treasurer - Manuel D. Andal
Secretary - Luis K. Lokin, Jr.
Asst. Secretary - Alma Kristina O. Alobba

PHILIPPINE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION (PHILCOMSAT)

OFFICERS:

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Vice-Chairman - Julio J. Jalandoni
President - Enrique L. Locsin
Vice-Presidents - Marietta K. Ilusorio
Philip G. Brodett

Treasurer - Manuel D. Andal
Secretary - Luis K. Lokin, Jr.
Asst. Secretary - Alma Kristina O. Alobba

Note: This is to inform the public that any transactions entered into by persons other than the foregoing authorized representatives of POTC and PHILCOMSAT shall not be honored and shall not bind the above Corporations.

Cruz vows to help soldiers

By Alcuin Papa

IN HIS first speech before the rank-and-file of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense, Secretary Avelino Cruz promised to give soldiers "the greatest benefits" despite the meager resources of the department.

During yesterday's flag-raising ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo, Cruz called on soldiers and DND employees to help him in this endeavor.

"We must be able to achieve optimum results with our limited resources," he said. "We must all work together to deliver the greatest benefits to our soldiers despite meager government resources in these times of austerity."

He vowed to improve medical services and modernize the hospital facilities of the AFP.

Citing a report by the Feliciano Commission which investigated the causes of the Oakwood mutiny last year, Cruz "identified the urgent need for adequate and timely medical services to soldiers."

"As soldiers defending the republic, you are at the front line. It is the duty of the citizenry to give back your due," he said. "My commitment to this effort springs not just as a matter of obligation, but as a matter of justice."

Cruz said he would seek "a just and fair" conclusion to the peace process with both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

INTERV
E P
GEORGE BUS
WAR CRIMINAL

NO TO SECOND TERM FOR BUSH. Promotion of Church People's Response members from India and Africa marched on the United States embassy in Manila yesterday to protest President George W. Bush's run for reelection. Their action coincided with the protest of thousands of Americans in New York City, site of this week's Republican National Convention.

ERIK ARAZAS

RP, Malaysia set military exercise

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippines and Malaysia are planning a joint military exercise and have agreed to post liaison officers in strategic cities in the two countries, the official Bernama news agency reported here Monday.

The moves come amid a drive by both countries against armed groups operating in the troubled southern islands of the Philippines and the waters off Malaysia's neighboring Sabah state on Borneo island.

Malaysia's army chief Gen. Mohamad Azumi Mohamed said after a meeting here with Philippine army commander Lt. Gen. Efren L. Abu that the field exercise would take cooperation beyond the current exchange programs involving senior officers to involve personnel at a lower level.

The agency gave no details of when or where the exercise would be held.

Mohamad Azumi said they had also agreed to station liaison officers in Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines and in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Malaysia's Sabah.

"These officers will link both armies in sharing intelligence as well as to coordinate joint operations, mainly in the southern Philippines and the waters off Sabah," he said.

The southern Philippines has been plagued by Muslim separatist violence perpetrated by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and Muslim Malaysia has offered a neutral venue for forthcoming peace talks as well as the services of cease-fire monitors.

Abu said the Philippine army was grateful for Malaysian assistance, especially in combating armed groups.

Mohamad Azumi said the monitoring team would be based in Cotabato City for a year.

The team, which Mohamad Azumi said was likely to leave in one to two weeks, will be composed of 51 army officers, five police officers and four foreign ministry officials. *AFP*

Grenade hurled at drugstore; 1 hurt

PAGADIAN CITY— A grenade exploded in a downtown area here, slightly wounding one person and damaging a drugstore in an attack police believed to be linked to an extortion attempt.

The grenade, placed on a parked motorcycle, went off late Sunday, injuring a man and shattering the glass windows of Mercury Drug on Rizal Avenue, Police Insp. Michael Palermo said.

Last week, the management of Mercury Drug received an extortion letter from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Lost Command, according to Supt. Ramon Ochotorena. But the security guard who reportedly received the letter returned it to the person who delivered it.

It was the second bomb attack in the city. In June, suspected members of the MILF Lost Command lobbed a grenade in the parking lot of D' Beam Citimart on Magsaysay Street and left seven people injured.

Police said the attacks may have been staged by extortion gangs, who had carried out similar bombings in recent months to pressure businesses in the city to pay up

Meanwhile, an explosive device was detonated yesterday in front of a house in Cotabato City leaving a huge crater but no casualties.

Days before, a fragmentation grenade planted by suspected extortionists exploded in front of a telecommunication company's office also in Cotabato. No one was hurt in that incident either. *Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AP*

SC urged to let gov't open Erap son's accounts

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday asked the Supreme Court to uphold the Sandiganbayan's decision allowing the government to open the trust and savings accounts of San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito's at the Export and Industry Bank.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio urged the high court to dismiss Ejercito's petition asking the high tribunal to reverse the Sandiganbayan decision, saying that Ejercito's father, former President Joseph Estrada, might even be the actual owner of the accounts.

Villa-Ignacio said the court could not ignore the bank documents Ejercito's petition had sought to exclude as evidence because they had already been presented in the plunder trial of Estrada in March and April 2003.

The government is seeking to open Ejercito's Trust Account No. 858 and Savings Account No. (SPAN) 858 in the former Urban Bank, later purchased by the Export and Industry Bank, for use as evidence in the plunder case against his father.

Villa-Ignacio said that seven manager's totaling worth P182,753,800.17 that were deposited in the "Jose Velarde" account that Estrada allegedly owned at the Equitable-PCI Bank had come from Ejercito's trust account.

"This fact, therefore, provides the nexus between the trust account at Urban Bank claimed by (Ejercito) and the 'Jose Velarde' account at PCI-Bank," Villa-Ignacio said.

"This nexus strengthens the theory of the prosecution that Jose Velarde is, indeed, accused Joseph Estrada for the filial connection explains, with more reason and logic, the fact that more than P182,753,800.17 flowed from JV Ejercito (assuming it to be really and totally his) to his father, accused Joseph Estrada," he added.

Villa-Ignacio said the documents showed "at the very least" that Estrada and Ejercito jointly owned Trust Account No. 858 or that the former President owned it.

"After all, why would the son give millions of pesos to his father (a public official and President of the Republic) when the latter actually owned the said money?" he said.

Napolcom nixes new police posts

By Christian V. Esguerra

SO MANY hopefuls, so few positions.

The Philippine National Police revamp set this week is hanging in the balance, owing to the National Police Commission's decision yesterday to junk the five new positions created by PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay.

The Napolcom, the policy-making body that governs the PNP, ruled that Aglipay could not create the position of "area police supervisors" without congressional action, the INQUIRER learned.

As a result, Aglipay and other top PNP officials were in a quandary over how to proceed with the revamp, or even if they would continue to implement it.

"I don't know how he [is going to] iron things out but it's clear that the new positions he created were illegal," a senior PNP official said in an interview, referring to Aglipay.

Asked about the proposed new positions, Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director, said, "Yes, I think it has legal impediments. But I know the revamp will still push through this week."

The new positions were to be occupied by five chief superintendents (one-star generals) whose simultaneous promotions to the rank of director (two-star) would be the impetus for the revamp, according to a senior PNP officer.

Aside from Lomibao, the officers who would have benefited from the revamp were Chief Superintendents Vidal Querol, Central Luzon director; Victor Luga, director for plans; Oscar de la Torre, director for logistics, and Oscar Calderon, comptroller. Calderon was said to be a distant relative of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The INQUIRER yesterday was shown a copy of the initial list of officers covered by the revamp, the second in Aglipay's week-old administration.

Lomibao is bound for Calabarzon, replacing Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla. He will concurrently be designated area supervisor for Southern Tagalog.

His purported replacement is Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, the former Intelligence Group head sacked over the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf detainees in Camp Crame in July last year.

Querol will head Region IX in concurrent capacity as area supervisor for Region XII and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

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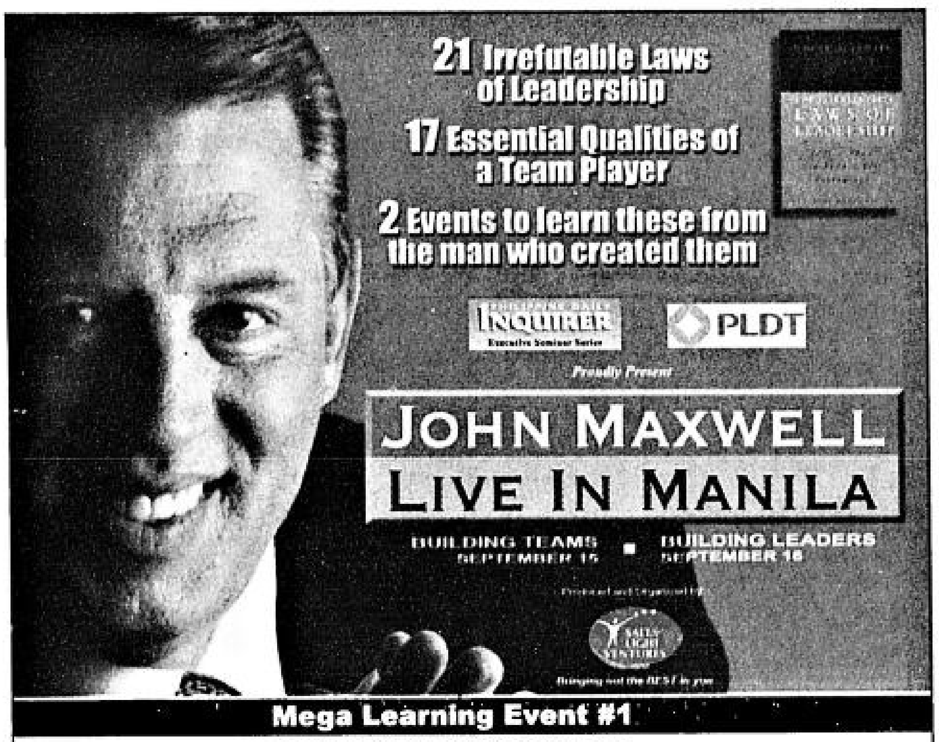

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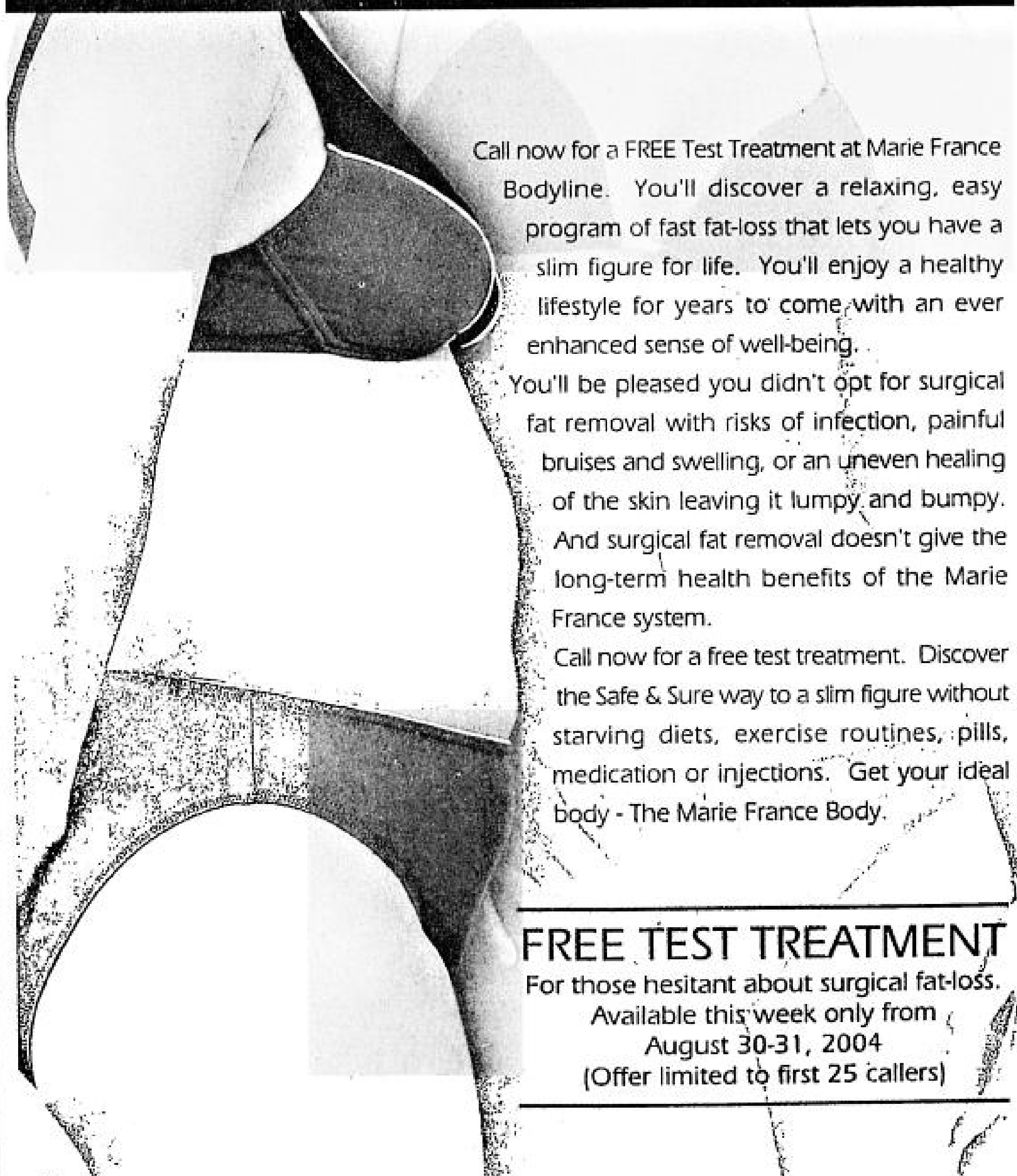

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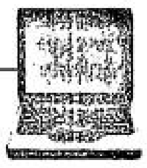

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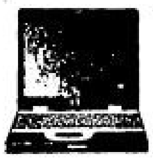

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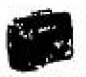
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Gov't prescribes higher power rates, new taxes

From page A1

his left pocket and right pocket ... If at all, you will get half that amount. Then you avert a fiscal disaster or a fiscal crisis," he said.

Recto enunciated the prevailing sentiment among senators that imposing new taxes had no ground to stand on, saying "there are still many ways in the budget to trim down."

He suggested bringing down from P36.7 billion to P14 billion the proposed subsidy on the interest expense for next year of the foreign debt of National Power Corp. (Napocor) as mandated by law, and abolishing "unconscionable" subsidies on other government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), which amount to P20 billion.

At the hearing, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin unveiled the administration's fiscal program.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Amatong identified three steps to avert an economic crisis. First, the national budget should be "balanced" by 2009; second, reduce the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) to 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP); and third, reduce public sector debt to 90 percent of GDP, a gauge of the country's growth rate, from 130 percent as of the end of 2003.

To achieve this, the economy should grow at a certain rate, and expenses will have to grow at a certain rate, according to Amatong.

She said the administration wanted to bring down the deficit drastically by increasing the tax effort (or tax revenues as Enrile suggested) from 12.5 percent of GDP in 2003 to 15.2 percent in 2010 (without new tax measures), or to 17.6 percent (with tax measures).

The administration also wants to collect P1.3 trillion in revenues and close the deficit by 2010. The administration expects to collect P676.4 billion and to run a budget deficit of P197.8 billion this year.

Political issue

Senators Richard Gordon, Manuel Roxas II and Juan Ponce Enrile said the nation was facing not a financial issue but a political one.

Roxas, a former trade secretary, said the government was facing a cash flow problem. "But it's taking money from one sector and giving it to another. At the end of the day, whose pockets will be picked (will be the issue)," he said.

He said the President's advisers should give "political advices, not financial only."

"Aren't we delaying the inevitable?" asked Gordon, who scored Malacañang for failing to tell all.

Ironically, it is the administration senators who appeared peeved over the cash-flow problem, prompting Enrile to quip that what they were saying "is music to the ears of the opposition."

Recto told reporters that he had asked the government's top economic managers to present the fiscal plan in relation to its medium term development plan to see how much the government would spend, and how much profit would it earn in the next six years.

"And if the expenditures outpace the revenues, how much should we borrow?" he said.

Recto told Amatong that her presentation "does not jibe with the solutions (the government is) proposing."

He said the policy objectives were correct, "but the numbers do not add up," referring to the proposed P80 billion in new taxes and the P1.85-centavo per kWh hike being sought by Napocor.

"The solutions they are proposing to lessen the deficit of the government, or CPSD, are twofold, but would incur losses," he said.

Biggest culprit

Senators yesterday were surprised to learn that Napocor and other GOCCs were heavily subsidized by the Arroyo administration.

Boncodin

> "The ₱10-billion cut due to pork barrel is not enough. We need ₱80 billion."

Amatong

> "We don't have revenues to reduce debt."

"The bigger problem is Napocor than the national government," said Recto after Amatong admitted that the government had assumed the P36.7-billion interest expense of Napocor for next year alone.

He said during the hearing on the fiscal plan of the administration that "if we don't have problems with Napocor, we won't have a (fiscal) problem now. Forty-percent of our problem is the GOCCs. If Napocor is not problematic, we won't even be talking about (fiscal crisis)."

Sen. Joker Arroyo asked why the government was shouldering the entire debt service payment of Napocor when the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) only allowed a maximum of P14 billion per year.

Under the fiscal plan, the government will assume interest payment of Napocor's debts—P36.7 billion in 2005, P45.5 billion in 2006, P48.8 billion in 2007, P53.2 billion in 2008, P61.2 billion in 2009 and P66.3 billion in 2010.

Recto revealed that Napocor had a total debt of P1.4 trillion as indicated by the proposed General Appropriations Act for 2005.

This year, all 49 GOCCs will post a total of P135 billion in net losses, of which P115 billion belongs to Napocor alone.

Recto said Napocor's losses were already 42 percent of the real government deficit. He explained that the P197.8-billion deficit was only 58 percent of the total deficit, also known as the consolidated public sector deficit, which is more than P300 billion.

NFA, NEA and PNOC

Besides Napocor, the other top three GOCCs which are incurring losses are the National Food Authority (P14.5 billion), National Electrification Administration (P1.7 billion) and Philippine National Oil Corp. (P1.4 billion).

On top of the Napocor burden, taxpayers are made to shoulder P20 billion in additional subsidy to GOCCs under the proposed 2005 budget.

"Why will be spending an additional P20 billion to subsidize them? Whether you call it net lending, equity, subsidy, at the end of the day it's the taxpayers' shouldering this burden to the GOCC. And they aren't profitable. So why are we fooling ourselves?" said Recto.

Amatong and Boncodin could only shake their heads, and said they could not answer for Energy Secretary Vincent Perez.

Reducing, if not eliminating huge subsidies on GOCCs, would drastically bring down the deficit, said Recto, who explained that Congress would only be constrained to pass new taxes should the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) refuse to increase electricity rates.

He said that if the ERC would grant the P1.85 per kWh increase in electricity rates, the government could generate P75 billion for Napocor. "The operating expenses of Napocor will be balanced, so it will stop bleeding."

But the government would still shoulder the P36.7 billion in interest expense, he said.

Question Hour

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago wants more explanation from Malacañang.

Yesterday, she asked the Senate to invite former and present budget and finance secretaries of the administration, particularly ex-Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Boncodin, to explain to senators in a "Question Hour" the true state of the country's fiscal situation.

Santiago made the call after delivering a privilege speech in which she disclosed that "questionable practices" by fiscal authorities and not the pork barrel of members of Congress contributed more to the "deepening fiscal crisis."

She said she had pushed for the removal of the pork barrel during her first term as senator more than 10 years ago.

"But first, let us investigate whether certain fiscal authorities might be making more illegal money, from non-budget accounts and corporate loans, than legislators might be making illegally from pork barrel," Santiago said.

The last time the Senate held a Question Hour, during which the chamber sits as a committee of the whole, was in 2001 when then former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was grilled by senators on the military's failure to catch Abu Sayyaf members during the siege in Lamitan, Basilan.

Santiago said that compared with the P20 billion in pork barrel of all lawmakers, non-budget accounts and corporate loans accounted for some P750 billion of the public debt.

She said non-budgetary accounts and off-book items, such as assumed liabilities and lending to government corporations like Napocor, made up more than one-third of the build up of the public debt.

Automatic debt appropriation

Among the things that Ms Arroyo's past and present budget and finance secretaries should explain was whether they used the automatic appropriation of debt service as a means of supporting government corporations, Santiago said.

"If so, what is the legal basis? The 1987 Constitution provides that no money shall be paid out of the treasury, except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law," she said.

Santiago also said Camacho, as then finance secretary, should explain why he authorized the purchase of P200 billion worth of bonds of Napocor and whether this had legal basis.

She asked whether Camacho's department stated explicitly "these off-budget transactions" in its quarterly reports to Congress.

Santiago also asked why the Executive department programmed for fiscal year 2004, using the reenacted 2003 budget, a significant amount of capital outlays, amounting to P63 billion.

She reminded that ex-Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno had taken the position that the reenactment of a budget meant that only the current operating expenditures, such as personnel services and maintenance and other items, were reenacted.

This means capital outlays are not deemed reenacted, she added.

"It appears that the Executive department has no legal basis in programming P63 billion for capital outlays, because the previous Congress had never approved the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004," Santiago said.

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Another BIR official . . .

From page A1

about P6.5 million—in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Marzan at the BIR's Paco office, where he was a supervisor, but the administration chief there, Cora Bacatan, said he had been transferred to the commissioner's office.

A staff member at the commissioner's office, who identified himself on the phone as Ben Reyes, told the INQUIRER that Marzan was not around. "I am not at liberty to give you his contact number," the man said, adding he would try to reach Marzan himself.

The Ombudsman's office said that in an alleged attempt to hide his assets, Marzan put up an agro-industrial corporation and had some of his property listed under the company.

The alleged property supposedly included a two-story commercial building and a warehouse worth P4.1 million in Isabela, a P1.5-million building in Laoag City, and another two-story commercial building worth P965,040 in Isabela.

"Based on the investigation of the Department of Finance, it alleged said corporation was used to hide Marzan's unlawfully acquired properties," a press statement issued by the Ombudsman's office said.

But DOF graft investigators William Ached, Joel Apolonio and Jesus Bueno learned that the company, where Marzan supposedly sits as one of the incorporators, ceased operations in 1997, the Ombudsman said separately in a resolution.

Disparity in assets, income

It said that in his 2002 SAL, Marzan declared his and his wife's net worth to be P1,676,000, consisting of farms and residential lots in Isabela, and a house and lot in Benguet.

Based on Marzan's tax returns, the increase in his and his wife's net worth was P667,680 in 1995, P855,564 in 1996, and P896,910 in 1997.

"Marzan's annual income is pegged at P201,504 only," the Ombudsman said.

Last month, Marcelo ordered the dismissal of a BIR lawyer who allegedly amassed P20,992,216.95 in ill-gotten wealth in 22 years of service at the agency.

The Ombudsman statement said the suspension of Marzan "shall continue until the case is terminated but shall not exceed six months."

It said its decision was justified "considering the strong evidence of guilt against him and the fact that the charges against him consist of dishonesty, falsification and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, which may also warrant his removal from the service."

Only reason for being

In its resolution, the Ombudsman said a certification issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission showed Marzan's corporation also failed to file its general information sheet and financial statement from 1997-2003 and 1997-2002, respectively.

An investigation by the municipal treasurer of Burgos, Isabela, also showed that it had "no registered business establishment on file nor does it have a record that the said corporation made any payment under its corporate name or paid its business permit and license for the year 2003," the resolution added.

It quoted the DOF investigators as saying Marzan's company "exists for no other purpose but to give the appearance that a corporation and not the respondent legitimately owns the above-mentioned properties."

"Marzan's Agro-Industrial Corporation is nothing more than a vehicle by which the respondent can hide his unlawfully acquired properties," Marcelo said.

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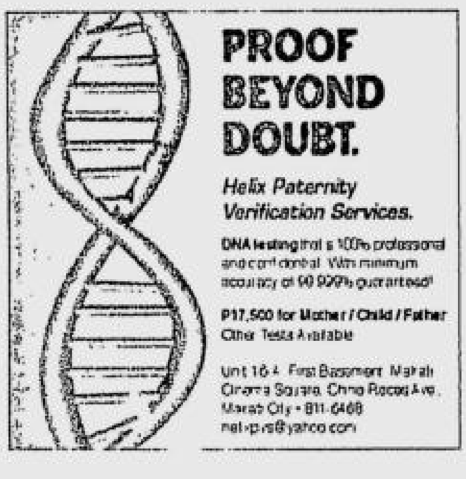

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Surprise growth: 6.2%

From page A1

to skyrocketing oil prices and rising US interest rates.

"The fact that the expansion in the first semester was boosted by the recovery in the global economy gives us reason to be concerned and cautious in the second half since rising oil prices are now threatening to slow down growth in the second half," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said at a press briefing yesterday.

He said he expected growth "to moderate" in the second half because higher prices would rein in consumer spending.

Rising interest rates in the United States will cause local interest rates to tighten and the peso to weaken against the US dollar which, in turn, will dampen investments, especially in housing.

Rising interest rates

After dropping to 40-year lows, rising interest rates in the United States, which are aimed at curbing inflationary pressures in the world's biggest economy, are expected to soften the global recovery. Neri said this would curb demand for Philippine exports.

Nevertheless, Neri said he was pleased that the economy continued to expand at a robust pace in the second quarter in spite of external and domestic challenges.

"Despite the political anxiety and the steep increase in global oil prices, we saw industry and services combined performing better in the second quarter than in the first quarter, cushioning the deceleration in growth of agriculture where rising cost of inputs slowed production in the poultry and livestock sectors," he said.

Inflation

Soaring prices of fuel, transport and basic goods are expected to push the August inflation rate to its highest level in the Arroyo administration, according to American giant financial services firm Citigroup.

In its Asia Economics Weekly dated Aug. 26, Citigroup said "headline inflation in August will test 7 percent" although its official forecast pegged inflation at 6.8 percent from its previous forecast of 6 percent.

Under President Macapagal-Arroyo, the inflation rate—which tracks the rise and fall of the cost of goods and services based on a basket of closely monitored items—peaked at 6.8 percent in July 2001.

Inflation to soar further

Citigroup said "the first round effects of high crude prices captured by higher commuter fares, rising prices of manufactured food and non-food items, and impact of recent wage increases on services are expected to register in August."

It expects inflation to soar further in the next few months and next year with the anticipated approval of the power rate hike of the National Power Corp. and the government's plan to slap additional taxes on petroleum products that would nudge prices of goods and services higher.

Reform bills

The President is seeking the passage in Congress of a package of reform bills that would raise revenues by P80 billion a year in an attempt to cut the budget deficit and allow the government to invest more in infrastructure.

Economists warned earlier this month that the country could fall into an Argentina-type debt default within two or three years while Ms Arroyo roiled the markets further by saying that the country was already in the throes of a "fiscal crisis."

Personal consumption

NSCB Secretary General Romulo Virola said personal consumption contributed a hefty 4.9 percentage points to the 6.2 percent GDP growth in the second quarter.

Personal consumption, the biggest contributor on the expenditure side, grew 6 percent in the second quarter or even faster than the 5.3 percent a year ago.

Other major contributors were net exports (2.2 percentage points) and construction (0.9 percentage points). Total exports bounced back to 14.9 percent from only 1.2 percent in the second quarter last year, driven by earnings from electronics particularly semiconductors.

The government, which is trapped in a tight cash budget position, did not contribute to the consumption index during the period.

'Major force'

On the supply side, Virola said the services sector was the "major force" that drove GDP growth in the second quarter, contributing 3.5 percentage points or 48.2 percent of total output. This resilient sector grew by 7.3 percent or even better than the 5.7-percent expansion in the first quarter.

Trade and private services

He explained that transportation, communication and storage (TCS) as well as trade and private services spurred the sector's growth as election-related activities peaked during the second quarter.

As expected, the TCS subsector carried the banner for the services sector, posting a double-digit rate of 13.5 percent and accounting for 2.4 percentage points of the second-quarter growth. Trade, private services and finance respectively contributed 2.1, 1.1 and 1 percentage point(s) to the total GDP growth.

Industry, a laggard in previous years, expanded by 5.6 percent or better than the 3.6 percent growth in the first quarter. The sector contributed 1.9 percentage points to the second quarter GDP growth.

The favorable performance of manufacturing and the recovery of construction were the major influences to the growth of industry, Virola said.

"The growth in industry and services was largely fueled by both strong foreign and domestic demand as exports rose on the back of demand from the country's trading partners like the United States, Japan and Asia, including China," Neri said.

Call centers

"The expansion of call center operations in the economy also boosted exports of non-factor services and the private services sector," he noted.

Neri said public construction spending and continued expansion in telecommunication and transportation also boosted growth, even as the political anxiety caused a slowdown in investments, especially in durable equipment.

The agriculture, fishery and forestry sector, which accounted for the remaining 18 percent of the GDP, exceeded last year's performance, growing 4.3 percent in the second quarter from 1.6 percent a year ago. Fishery and *palay* (unhusked rice) were the major contributors, followed by sugarcane, corn and forestry.

The sustained economic expansion in the second quarter pushed up per capita GDP growth to 3.7 percent in the second quarter from only 1.8 percent in 2003.

Seasonal adjustment

On the other hand, seasonally adjusted GDP, which takes out volatile factors to enable accurate quarterly growth comparisons, grew by a modest 0.7 percent in the second quarter, the weakest level since the third quarter of 2003.

Despite the threats to economic growth in the second semester, Neri said there might be positive factors that could mitigate the adverse impact for the rest of the year.

"With the peaceful conclusion of the May elections, political conditions have stabilized, providing the underpinning for more investment activity," he said.

He said he expected continued investments in business process outsourcing and contact/call centers and in telecommunications, which is expanding into rural areas and tapping the OFWs by providing them the facility to reduce remittance transactions cost.

Smart Communications has introduced a new service that enables OFWs to remit funds using the texting or short messaging system.

"For 2005, the government is still sticking to its GDP growth forecast of 5.3-6.3 percent, but achieving this will hinge on the successful implementation of measures that will boost competitiveness and investor confidence that will broaden the base of growth in manufacturing," Neri said.

Fiscal reform

He said fiscal reform was at the top of the priority list. "The administration continues to push for legislation that will correct the structural defects in the system that have eroded tax collection even as it improves tax administration and seeks the support of the legislature and local government units to also practice fiscal prudence," he said.

Another key priority, Neri said, was infrastructure which was needed to boost the productivity of industries by reducing transport costs.

"Last but not the least, the priority is to assist the agriculture sector and small and medium enterprises by improving their access to credit, technology and markets," Neri said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

GDP TOP CONTRIBUTORS

Industrial origin approach

	Contribution
Services (transportation, communication and storage; private services)	3.5%
Industry (manufacturing and construction)	1.9%
Agriculture, fishery and forestry (fishery,palay, sugar cane, corn and forestry)	1.6%

Expenditures approach

Personal consumption
- Food, beverage, clothing and footwear-due to election-related expenses
- Transportation and communication-due to use of mobile phones

Exports
- Electronic products-components/devices, computers, office equipment, electronics
- Non-electronic products-vegetables and fruits, mainly mango
- Merchandise exports-bars, rods of copper; iron conglomerates; transmission apparatus, canned pineapple; copra oil; cake and meal

Imports
- Electrical machinery, machinery other than electrical, textile fibers, feeding stuff and textile yarns

PDI RESEARCH

Corrections

IN THE Aug. 20 issue, a front-page story—"Tiniest baby ever now 14-year-old achiever"—misstated the age of Madeline Mann. She is currently 15 years old as she was born on June 27, 1989.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 28 issue, Al Mendoza's "Spectator" column on Page A22 misstated that 449 BC came before 776 BC. 449 BC marked the first time the city of Olympia was chosen as the site of the Greek Games. That's 327 years after the first Greek Games were held in 776 BC.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE BEST POLICY ROGER MARGALLO

Brahim A. Lagyal (right), a customs examiner at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, recently found and returned $410 and 20 baht left behind by a passenger from Thailand. Naia Customs District Collector Celso Templo commends the honest man.

DepEd: Third of high school freshmen in bridge program

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ONE OF every three freshmen in the public high schools is in the "bridge program" voluntarily, according to the Department of Education.

The DepEd claimed that a partial survey of public high schools nationwide showed that 236,968 of the 670,623 freshmen enrollees this year were in the bridge program.

"There are enrollees [in the program]," said DepEd Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, showing the partial survey to reporters yesterday.

The regions with the biggest number of bridge enrollees are the National Capital Region with 36,642; Region III, 29,678; Region VI, 23,674, and Region V, 18,239.

The report dated Aug. 19, however, covered only 2,391 public high schools, or 41 percent of the 5,787 public high schools throughout the country.

Luz said only those schools had reported on their progress in the bridge program.

The bridge program added a year of intensive tutorials in English, Science and Math for freshmen in the public high schools after tests showed many elementary school graduates were deficient in those subjects.

But the program came under fire from parents, students and even teachers who protested the additional financial burden, forcing the DepEd to make it an "optional" program.

Luz released the partial survey yesterday to prove that not all parents had rejected the idea of an extra school year.

Total freshman enrollment in the public high schools is estimated at 1.4 million. Almost all these students will take the second High School Readiness Test today. Exempted are students in the science high schools.

The first HSRT was given last May 24 to determine who among the incoming freshmen should go into the bridge program.

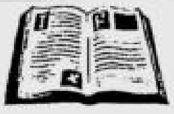
Outgoing Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus reiterated his advice to parents of deficient students to allow their children to take the tutorial year.

He said students who flunk the HSRT a second time risk failing their first-year high school subjects.

Luz said the bridge program would remain optional for the rest of the year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has not endorsed the bridge program. Rather, she declared that she wanted a year added to the 10-year education cycle in the pre-school year.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, August 31, 2004
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Lk 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people at the Sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all these people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. He orders, and you see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

JESUS went "down" to Capernaum—literally. It is a lakeside town. Having been rejected in Nazareth he made it his new base. The people of Nazareth saw only the carpenter, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses?" (Mk 6:3). "And they took offense at him." He was too familiar to have any significance for them. They knew where he came from; they were able to reduce him to his past. This is what we might call the explanation "from behind." It robbed him of his power: Mark says "He could work no miracle there" (6:5). By contrast, the people of the other town "were astonished as the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority." They didn't explain him "from behind," like the people of Nazareth, nor "from below," like the Pharisees. They were able to feel the full unexplained power of his presence—the terror and the beauty of it.

We have to be careful with our explanations. What are they for? What are we doing with them? Sometimes (I know from experience) we "explain" something in order to avoid facing it.

Children are dumb to say how hot the day is,
How hot the scent is of the summer rose,
How dreadful the black wastes of evening sky,
How dreadful the tall soldiers drumming by.
But we have speech, to chill the angry day,
And speech, to dull the rose's cruel scent.
We spell away the overhanging night,
We spell away the soldiers and the fright.
(Robert Graves)

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House leaders agree to 38% cut in pork

From page A1

was to resist any cut in the pork barrel after Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin admitted before the meeting that the graft-ridden fund did not cause the current fiscal crisis.

"Many congressmen present were in fact angry and asked why Congress is being singled out as a favorite whipping boy and the pork barrel is being blamed for the woes of the entire nation when it's just a minuscule part of the entire budget," Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, fifth district, Iloilo) told the INQUIRER.

Rep. Jacinto Paras (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, first district, Negros Oriental) said he proposed a secret balloting among members of Congress on whether to abolish or cut their pork barrel. "The caucus gave rise to more questions," Paras said.

Don't blame pork

Before the caucus, lawmakers insisted that it was not the pork barrel but the government's mismanagement of its huge debt that brought about the current fiscal crisis.

This was the reaction of lawmakers from various political parties to Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales' call for Congress to completely do away with the graft-ridden fund.

For its part, Malacañang welcomed Rosales' call and told lawmakers that President Macapagal-Arroyo was willing to match a cut in their pork barrel with a corresponding reduction in her social fund.

"She is willing to observe austerity and lead by example. The other agencies under the Office of the President will be affected as well," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Rep. Rolando Andaya (Liberal Party, first district, Camarines Sur), however, voiced doubts about Malacañang's sincerity in making the sacrifice.

Andaya, the chair of the House appropriations committee, said the proposed national budget for next year called for a cut in the pork barrel of lawmakers but provided increases in government expenses for travel, communication, utility and representation allowances.

Calls for the abolition of the P20-billion pork barrel mounted after a group of University of the Philippines economists warned that a mishandling of the government's fiscal crisis could develop into a full-blown economic crisis in two to three years. Rosales on Sunday urged lawmakers to give up their pork barrel, saying this could be the country's last chance to stave off an economic crisis.

Studies have shown that a big portion of the pork barrel, which funds pet projects of senators and congressmen, ends up in their pockets in the form of kickbacks provided by favored contractors.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, however, said that abolishing the pork barrel would not solve the fiscal crisis which, he said, had been caused by the government's mismanagement of its debt.

Escudero said the government should explain to the people where the foreign loans went and how it spent the money.

Paras said Rosales should also ask Ms Arroyo to give up her own "pork barrel," referring to the President's Social Fund and intelligence fund that run to billions of pesos.

"It's not the fault of solons that our country is in deep trouble. Surrendering the pork barrel will not help any. It will just worsen the problems of people in the poor cities, towns and provinces who are right now recipients of the PDAF," Paras said.

Ocampo speaks

Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna), however, said his group supported Rosales' call for the abolition of the pork barrel despite the fact that "graft-free projects" implemented by Bayan Muna had come from the PDAF.

"Bayan Muna would confidently embrace a political setup without the pork barrel," he said, adding he agreed with Rosales that the current pork barrel system was being exploited by selfish and partisan interests.

Ocampo made the statement a day after a fellow militant lawmaker, party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano (Anakpawis), defended the pork barrel system. Mariano said Sunday that the controversial fund could be used to benefit the masses.

Yesterday, however, Mariano changed his tune. "We maintain that we are for the elimination of all sources of graft and corruption. As our basic position, we are for the abolition or reduction of the pork barrel which is a source of corruption," he said.

Mariano said the Office of the President's "pork barrel," including its P500-million intelligence fund, would be subjected to congressional scrutiny.

In Cebu City, however, Bunye assured lawmakers that Ms Arroyo was willing to slash her Presidential Social Fund "to match the sacrifice that will be made by legislators."

Explain gap

Even so, Andaya said his committee would summon budget officials to explain the gap between Malacañang's announcement to cut travel and other perks for government offices and the budget proposal calling for increased allocations for these expenses.

"Is this a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing?" Andaya said.

He said that in the proposed P907-billion budget for next year, a breakdown of the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) provided for an increase in travel expenses from P3.61 billion to P4.34 billion.

The proposed budget for the communication expenses of national government agencies will likewise go up from P1.73 billion this year to P1.89 billion next year.

Utility expenses—which cover power, water and electricity bills of public offices—will also be increased from the current level of P4.26 billion to P4.58 billion.

On the other hand, the allocation for supplies and materials will also be increased by over a billion pesos from P19.49 billion to P20.51 billion.

Andaya said the proposed budget would also increase the representation expenses of high officials from P268 million to P431 million.

Advertising expenses are earmarked at P430.1 million from P160.5 million. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Expert blames rich, poor folk for Central Luzon flooding

From page A1

owners widen their property by carving up the natural banks, the river's width becomes irregular, and its water flow gets choked, he added.

"But nature is not like that" because a river allowed to run its course gets wider downstream, he said during the "Science and Society" lecture series organized by the University of the Philippines College of Science.

Also, according to Rodolfo, it's the rich "who could afford" the manpower and machines capable of wiping out patches of forests whose root systems hold the soil together and prevent erosion and rainwater runoffs from the uplands down to the plains.

Rodolfo stressed that Central Luzon was endowed with floodplains or "natural parts of the environment that get flooded from time to time."

Poor also to blame

But because of the ongoing "urban sprawl," or construction of concrete structures and entire communities on these natural catch basins, widespread, long-standing flooding ensues in the surrounding areas.

But the poor are not also blameless, Rodolfo said.

Their excessive extraction of groundwater through artesian wells that could run 24 hours a day causes land subsidence. This simply means that the land has been "going down" by up to almost a centimeter each year closer to sea level, making the area more flood-prone.

Rodolfo is professor emeritus at the University of Illinois in Chicago and currently adjunct professor at the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences. He authored an award-winning book in 1996 titled "Pinatubo and the Politics of Lahar."

In a PowerPoint presentation, Rodolfo flashed several photos of manually operated water pumps in Manila and Pampanga—their concrete bases had cracked and their main pipes appeared to have "risen" several inches from the ground.

But it was actually the earth that had gone down because of the depletion of the underground water, not the pump thrusting upward, he said.

"Land subsidence is the least understood (cause of flooding) but it is actually the most important," he said.

Visible scapegoat

The country has laws for regulating the size of fish ponds, curbing logging operations, and even limiting the number of artesian wells within a village—but they have gone largely unimplemented, he said.

But aren't authorities always blaming garbage clogging the rivers and esteros?

"The thing is, garbage is easily seen, visible," Rodolfo said. "Land subsidence occurs out of view, making it harder to explain to the people."

Garbage may be the more obvious scapegoat, "but not the main reason," he said.

Rodolfo said it was not enough to attribute the worsening floods in Central Luzon to the Pinatubo eruption that left rivers and natural channels heavily silted and unable to funnel floodwaters out to sea.

This is because the "trend" has spread even to areas not affected by the eruption, like Bulacan and the Camanava district in Metro Manila, he said.

AERIAL view of the breached dike and flooding in Culibangbang, Paniqui, Tarlac. ROGER MARGALLO

Blame it on the rains

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director and chair of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, yesterday welcomed Sen. Richard Gordon's call for an investigation into the causes of the widespread flooding.

"How government agencies synchronize their efforts should also be scrutinized," Querol said, referring to the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

In Querol's view, the floods were caused by days of heavy downpour that caused rivers to swell and to breach the Culibangbang dike in Paniqui, Tarlac.

In the flooded 18 towns and two cities in Pampanga, water rose two to eight feet.

NIA release

The floods were neither triggered by the overspilling of dams nor by the release of water from those catchments, said Jesus Emmanuel Paras, chief of the National Irrigation Administration, adding that the NIA released water only from the Magat Dam in Isabela.

As of yesterday, the dam had expelled 290 million cubic meters of water but these did not drain out to Central Luzon, Paras stressed.

He said the Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija and the Angat Dam in Bulacan "accommodated" the rainwaters while the Pantabangan Dam did not even reach its critical level.

In Angat Dam, the water level rose to 189 meters from last month's 170 meters, he said.

"I believe the floods were due to the heavy downpour," Paras said.

Paras clarified that the San Roque Dam was not under the supervision of the NIA but of the National Power Corp. However, he urged the construction of a regulating dam to catch excess water spilling from the San Roque Dam to prevent flooding in eastern Pangasinan.

Querol ruled out the idea that the flooding in Tarlac was caused by the release of water from the San Roque Dam. The Tarlac River drains out to the watersheds of Zambales, he said.

Reynaldo Mencias, NIA project manager for the San Roque Dam irrigation component, said he received reports that the dam released at least 2,000 cubic meters of water per second.

Local governments were given "advance notices" before this was done, he said.

Inquiry urged

An environmental group in Dagupan City called for the creation of a multi-sectoral body to analyze the causes of the recent flooding in Pangasinan that submerged 759 villages in 44 towns and cities and displaced 86,790 people.

Nick Melecio, president of the Pangasinan Institute for Land and Aquatic Research Inc., said the group could also look into reports that the San Roque Dam in San Manuel town had aggravated the flooding in central Pangasinan. *With reports from Alcuin Papa in Manila; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops sleeping on job to be 'captured' on cam

From page A1

ing on the job.

Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay yesterday ordered the purchase of video cameras for his rehashed campaign to smoke out inept officers.

This came shortly after Aglipay and Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, the PNP's third highest official, drove around Metro Manila and saw things for themselves. "There were still policemen sleeping inside their patrol cars while on duty," Aglipay, speaking in Filipino, said during a press conference in Camp Crame.

He repeatedly pointed out that a police patrol was the best proof of law enforcers' visibility, but it would be "useless" if the officers habitually dozed off inside the vehicles "even while the overhead blinkers flash."

Armed with the videocams, inspection teams to be deployed in Metro Manila starting next week will be specifically asked to hunt down the sleepyheads.

Sanctions

According to Director Avelino Razon Jr., chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, the film will be forwarded to field commanders, who will identify the subjects and submit their names to higher authorities for sanctions.

For a start, Aglipay said, they would join the infamous first batch of Taba cops to be banished to a retraining camp in Subic for at least one month. Taba, Aglipay's own coinage, stands for "*Tamad, Abusado, Bastos, Ayaw madisiplina*" (lazy, abusive, disrespectful, incorrigible)."

So far, there are 100 names on the Taba list prepared by the NCRPO's five districts.

Eventually, Razon said, inspection teams would be deployed in the provinces, too. But patrol cars-turned-bedrooms would not be their sole targets. Police stations would be watched just as closely, the official said, "especially in the wee hours."

Cops on TV

Speaking of another kind of camera, Razon earlier said policemen should make sure they're well-groomed and in proper uniform before giving television interviews.

Otherwise, they'd better pray he doesn't watch the telecast.

Razon told the INQUIRER on Sunday that he had often been dismayed at seeing unkempt policemen on news and public affairs programs. This was unacceptable, he said, since police officers could always ask TV reporters and cameramen for a few seconds to compose themselves.

From now on, he warned, policemen should always be in the complete prescribed uniform, especially when appearing on TV—or they would face charges of insubordination.

There are only a few exceptions. Policemen interviewed right after entrapment operations, while they are still wearing civilian clothes, need not worry, Razon said. Off-duty lawmen who "chanced upon a crime and responded" are also excused.

During an inspection of 3,000 Manila police also on Sunday, Aglipay drew a pair of scissors and snipped clumps of hair off at least two men. He gave several others a dressing down for bulging tummies and ordered them to attend thrice-weekly aerobics classes.

The PNP chief then said policemen would soon be required to wear pins that read, "No to *kotong* (extortion)," in a parallel campaign against police corruption.

All these efforts are part of a drive to improve the image of the police force, Razon said. "Policemen should always be professional and disciplined—and look it."

Silliman alumni donate jewelry to gov't

From page A1

practice in rural areas where, in a big hall, in front of beauty contestants, donors flash their cash donations, which are then announced over the public address system.

Saturday's collection was to be turned over to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, a member of the SU board of trustees, during the alumni fellowship dinner that same evening.

Former students from other batches, who were holding their own reunion parties in observance of the university's 103rd founding anniversary, got wind of the drive and joined in, giving cash.

Amatong was reluctant to accept the jewelry and cash, citing possible legal impediments. The donors decided to turn over everything to Regional Trial Court Judge Candelario Gonzalez, national president of the SU Alumni Association, who agreed to sell the jewelry in a public auction this month.

Public auction

Gonzalez said he would form a committee composed of appraisers, auditors, members of Class '62 and other alumni to formulate the auction mechanics. He lauded Villanueva's batch for initiating the movement, which he hoped other organizations across the country would duplicate.

"After all," Gonzalez noted, "it's easier to give jewelry, especially if you have more than enough, than cash from your wallet."

Silliman president Dr. Agustin Pulido also praised the endeavor, saying it was an opportune time to show that well-meaning citizens could offer more than rhetoric if they really wanted to. "It was very inspiring and I'm glad that they did it."

It was "the Silliman spirit" at work, Villanueva said. "We didn't do this just because of the appeal of Speaker (Jose) Joe de Venecia."

De Venecia earlier called on wealthy Filipinos to come to the country's rescue. He said this was done in South Korea and Thailand at the height of the mid-1997 financial crisis—citizens donated money and jewelry in a bid to stabilize their respective currencies and strengthen their reserves.

Sentimental value

According to Villanueva, passing that bag at the party was not exactly planned. "The idea just crossed my mind during one of the pre-reunion meetings," he said.

He broached the idea to the other party organizers and found them "very receptive." Thus, during the party itself, he felt it was all right to just do it.

Asked if he and his batch mates would join the auction for their own donated jewelry, Villanueva said they might if allowed to, but that they would buy back the pieces at double the market price.

"Some of those pieces have sentimental value," he said. "For instance, the ring I gave was something I had bought with my first salary."

But right in Congress where it came from, De Venecia's cry for help ran into some snickers yesterday.

Minority Leader Francis Escudero challenged the Speaker to start the ball rolling relative to his own appeal. "Because it is his suggestion, he should set the example," Escudero said in Filipino.

He said De Venecia and the Lower House leadership should give up their pork barrel altogether and donate their own money to the cash-strapped government.

Party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman (Anak Mindanao) pointed to the "millionaires' club" in the chamber which should "shed the first blood" because this was the only way others could be persuaded to chip in. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Foreign filmmakers have to pay to make movies here

By Martin P. Marfil

FOREIGN film producers who want to make movies in the country have to abide by new regulations and fees.

The Bureau of Immigration yesterday announced that foreign film producers who plan to shoot films here would have to be screened by the Film Academy of the Philippines.

Also, these producers will be compelled to make "equity payment" to the actors' guild before the actors and crew they are bringing in can work in the country.

The new rule was imposed yesterday, days after officials of the Bureau of Immigration signed a memorandum of agreement with Esperidion Laxa, chair of FAP, the umbrella organization of all movie guilds in the country.

"Hopefully, this arrangement... will protect our workers in the local film industry from being displaced by unfair foreign competition," immigration chief Alipio Fernandez said in a statement.

Under the memorandum, foreign producers are required to secure a letter of endorsement and certificate of compliance from the FAP.

Before the FAP gives its endorsement, it will require foreign producers to remit an "equity payment" to the actors' guild. This would be an amount equivalent to the rates of all the local actors and crew who would be displaced from work as a result of the foreigners working here.

The FAP will also require the producers to comply with all tax obligations which include permits, licenses, city and municipal taxes and entertainment taxes to the concerned local government units.

Earlier, the bureau signed an MOA with the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit and the Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino.

In the MOA, the musicians' groups will screen foreign musical artists before they are allowed to perform in the country.

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Kin, witnesses to newsman's murder lose gov't protection

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE FAMILY of murdered Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio and witnesses in the case could appeal their removal from the Department of Justice's Witness Protection Program, a top DOJ official said yesterday.

State Prosecutor Mark Jalandoni, DOJ-WPP chief, said the Damalerio family and the two witnesses in the killing could file a motion for reconsideration before local WPP officials in Western Mindanao.

"We understand their plight. They could appeal their removal," Jalandoni said.

He explained that WPP operations had been devolved and that the decision to drop Damalerio's wife, Gemma, their child, and witnesses Adgar Amoro and Edgar Ongue from the program was made by local WPP officials.

Damalerio's family and the witnesses now fear for their lives after they were removed from the WPP. Primary witness Ongue is in hiding while Gemma has lost the monthly stipend of P5,000, which she used to pay for her security escorts.

Jalandoni said he was not aware of the particular circumstances that led to the decision to remove them from the WPP but he said the "archiving" of the case may have contributed to it.

The case was reportedly archived because it had not progressed in the last six months.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said it was holding Malacañang, the DOJ and the police responsible if anything happened to the witnesses.

Damalerio, a hard-hitting radio commentator, was on his way home from a press conference on May 13, 2002, when he was attacked near the city police station.

Witnesses tagged former policeman Guillermo Wapile as the gunman. Wapile was taken into police custody but disappeared in February 2003, two days before a judge issued a warrant for his arrest.

Former Zambonga del Sur police director Senior Supt. Pedrito Reyes, who took Wapile into custody, was charged before the military Ombudsman, but the case was dismissed for lack of merit. Reyes has since retired.

According to Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility records, Damalerio was the 35th Filipino journalist killed in the line of duty since 1986, and the 52nd since 1961. It added that Damalerio was also the third journalist to be killed in Pagadian City since 1999.

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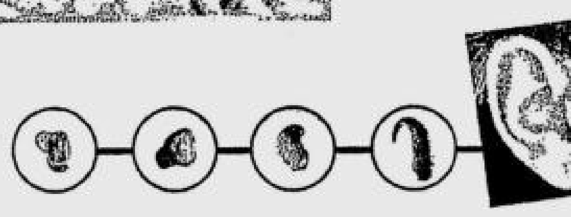

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Filipinos in Japan illegally warned

By Martin P. Marfil

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) yesterday warned Filipinos who were in Japan illegally to depart from the country voluntarily after the Japanese government launched a campaign against overstaying foreigners.

The campaign, one of several being launched by various Asian governments, is expected to affect 31,428 overstaying Filipinos in Japan, including 10,582 entertainers.

Earlier, the governments of South Korea, Brunei and Malaysia ordered a crackdown on illegal migrants.

There are about 8,000 undocumented Filipinos working in South Korea and another 3,000 in Brunei.

No figures were available for Filipino workers in Malaysia but it is believed there are thousands in that country who were able to slip in through the "southern backdoor," or the island of Sabah.

In a statement, POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz said the Japanese government was alarmed by the influx of illegal foreigners despite the strict implementation of its immigration laws and the deportation of a significant number of Filipinos.

Because of this, Baldoz said the Japanese government amended its Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act to improve measures against foreign residents and improve its refugee recognition system and its rules on the entry of persons with disabilities.

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Manila Central U marks 100th year

THE MANILA Central University (MCU) is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

In 1904, MCU's forerunner, the Escuela de Farmacia del Liceo de Manila, was established. It graduated the country's first pharmacists, Filomena Francisco-Guerrero and Matilde Arquiza-Arroyo, in 1908.

It was the first school of pharmacy run by Filipinos and was under the stewardship of Dr. Alejandro Albert. At that time, members of the faculty included Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero, Jose Nolasco, Mamerto Manalo and Mariano Vivencio del Rosario.

In 1908, Dr. Guerrero was school director when the Liceo expanded and a Manila College of Pharmacy was established under Dr. Albert. Dr. Albert was later tapped as assistant director of the then Bureau of Education and the school's leadership was transferred to Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero.

During World War II, however, the school was closed as the Japanese invaders commandeered its resources leaving nothing but shells of buildings.

It reopened in 1945 under the stewardship of lawyer Filemon Tanchoco. MCU was renamed the Manila College of Pharmacy and Liberal Arts. A year later, it was renamed the Manila Central Colleges after the establishment of a college of education.

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Over 100,000 protesters in NY urge ouster of Bush

NEW YORK—More than 100,000 protesters marched through the streets of New York City on Sunday to vent their anger at President George W. Bush on the eve of his Republican party's four-day national convention.

From war veterans to celebrities, and tiny tots to aging hippies, the crowd braved punishing summer heat to unite in a noisy and passionate call to oust Bush from the White House when voters go to the polls on Nov. 2.

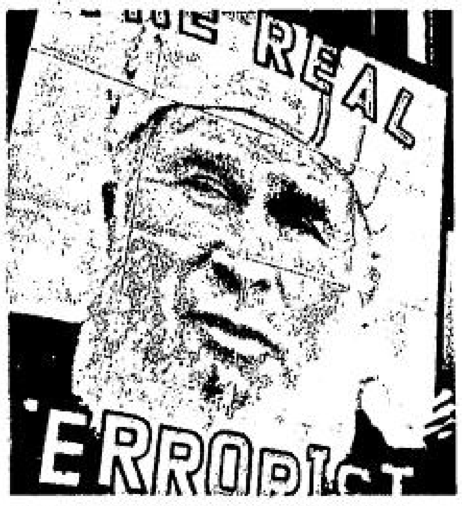
"It's the same kind of nonsense that we endured in Vietnam," said James Adams, dean of students at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, marching with fellow Vietnam veterans furious over the war in Iraq.

"It's like deja vu for me," he said. "Based on lies, no enemy we can point to, and we're fighting an insurgency we cannot defeat."

Katharine Poulton, 52, who traveled all night with her husband from Akron, Ohio, to demonstrate for better health care, said: "The countries we bomb take better care of their people than we do."

Demonstrators wound through the city for hours, streaming past the massive police and security barrage surrounding Madison Square Garden, the convention site where Bush will formally accept the nomination for president on Thursday.

"It was a massive protest against the Bush agenda," said Bill Dobbs, spokesperson from United for Peace and Justice, the umbrella protest organization that staged the rally.



A PROTESTER holds an anti-Bush poster during a protest organized by the United for Peace and Justice in New York, Aug. 29 on the eve of the Republican National Convention on Aug. 30 in Madison Square Garden. AP

He said more than 400,000 people turned out for the march, a figure which could not be verified, while police declined to give an estimate.

But New York's Seventh Avenue was thronged with miles of tightly packed demonstrators. AFP reporters on the scene estimated the number at more than 100,000.

Anti-Bush filmmaker Michael Moore, "Lethal Weapon" star Danny Glover and veteran civil rights activist Jesse Jackson led the first wave of the march, which appeared to go off without serious incident.

"The majority of the country never voted for the Bush administration and it's time to have our country back," Moore said.

Amid fears of a new terrorist strike here, security was ultra-tight for the convention, with some 10,000 local policemen deployed, as well as state and federal officers. Four police helicopters buzzed overhead during the march.

Police reported making 116 arrests on Sunday but gave no details beyond saying that most were for minor offenses. "Nothing very heavy," a spokesperson said.

Although political feeling was high, the march often had the feeling of a street party or 1960s-vintage demonstration. Many people banged drums or danced.

Curious tourists snapped photos of the protesters from open-topped buses, while residents looked down on the crowd from apartment building windows.

Despite the heavy turnout, Republicans were upbeat as they readied to open a four-day gala on Monday that will formally name Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney to the party ticket.

Cheney arrived for the convention on Sunday, welcomed by Republican New York Gov. George Pataki and former mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who won praise for calming the city after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. *AFP*

Kremlin bet voted Chechnya president

GROZNY, Russia—The Kremlin-anointed career police officer elected as Chechnya's new leader vowed on Monday to consign separatist extremists to the "dustbin of history" and impose security on the war-torn republic.

Alu Alkhanov won a crushing victory in a weekend presidential vote that was forced by the assassination in May of his predecessor by separatists who have been waging a brutal struggle with Moscow over the past decade.

With 84.5 percent of the votes counted, he had reduced the other six candidates to the status of also-rans by polling 74 percent, according to local election officials, in a vote where high turnout figures contrasted with near deserted voting stations.

Alkhanov, currently Chechen interior minister, immediately reiterated the Kremlin's hardline stance against negotiations with separatist leader Aslan Maskha-dov and unsurprisingly earmarked security as his top priority.

"Maskhadov and (radical Islamic) Wahhabism have no future in Chechnya," said the 47-year-old, who most Chechens had never heard of until a few months ago.

The extremists "may kill and make explosions, but the will of the people has thrown them into the dustbin of history and Maskhadov has chosen this way himself. The talk of the imaginary legitimacy of Maskhadov is misplaced," Alkhanov told local news agencies.

He vowed to maintain the policies of murdered president Akhmad Kadyrov, a pro-Moscow former rebel, "to rebuild the economy and assure security for the inhabitants of Chechnya."

Fear of attacks had cast a long shadow over Sunday's election, which came just a week after up to 50 people were killed in a rebel raid on the Chechen capital and was marked by the death of a man who blew himself up outside a polling station.

It also followed the near-simultaneous crash of two passenger airliners on flights to southern Russian destinations last week, which many have blamed on female Chechen suicide bombers.

Many residents of Grozny decided to stay away from the streets of the bombed-out city at the weekend, fleeing to the countryside or staying indoors. *AFP*

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France says it won't bow to Iraq kidnappers over headscarf ban

PARIS—France on Monday vowed not to yield to Iraqi kidnappers who have taken two journalists hostage and are demanding the repeal of a law that bans the Islamic headscarf in state schools.

Speaking as Foreign Minister Michel Barnier arrived in Cairo at the start of an urgent mission to the Middle East to secure the men's release, government spokesperson Jean-Francois Cope said the law would come into effect as planned at the start of the academic year on Thursday.

"The law will be applied," Cope told Canal Plus television.

Asked if there was any chance of the ban being suspended, Cope said: "That is not the way to look at the problem. Our aim is to reject any link between the two issues and to emphasize the fact that the values of the French republic are a reference for the world.

"These are values of tolerance, respect and above all the principle that in France anyone can exercise his or her religion, while respecting those of others," he said.

CHIRAC pleading with Iraqi abductors, in a televised address in Paris, Aug. 29. REUTERS

The Islamic Army in Iraq said late on Saturday that it was giving France 48 hours to rescind the headscarf ban. Although it did not explicitly threaten to kill the men, it murdered an Italian journalist last week after Rome ignored an ultimatum to pull its troops out of Iraq.

Approved earlier this year, the French law bans the wearing of all "conspicuous" religious insignia in public schools and is meant to reinforce the strict separation between religion and state.

Although all religious signs are covered by the prohibition—including Jewish Stars of David and large Christian crosses—French Muslims believe they are the main target of the law and there has been an angry reaction among many in the community of five million.

Journalists Christian Chesnot of Radio France and Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro newspaper disappeared in Iraq on Aug. 20, the day they were to have left Baghdad for the Shiite holy city of Najaf, then the scene of fierce fighting between US forces and Shiite militia loyal to radical cleric Moqtada Sadr.

On Saturday Arabic-language Al-Jazeera television broadcast images of the two men—both Middle East experts with years of experience in the region—along with the ultimatum from the Islamic Army in Iraq. *AFP*

Al-Sadr orders ceasefire; group to join mainstream

BAGHDAD—Shiite radical leader Moqtada al-Sadr on Monday ordered a nationwide ceasefire and announced his militant movement would join the political mainstream, one of his aides said in Baghdad.

"The commander of the al-Sadr movement, leader Moqtada al-Sadr, announced today in Najaf the end of all fighting in the whole of Iraq and the integration of his movement in the political process," Sheikh Naim al-Qaabi said.

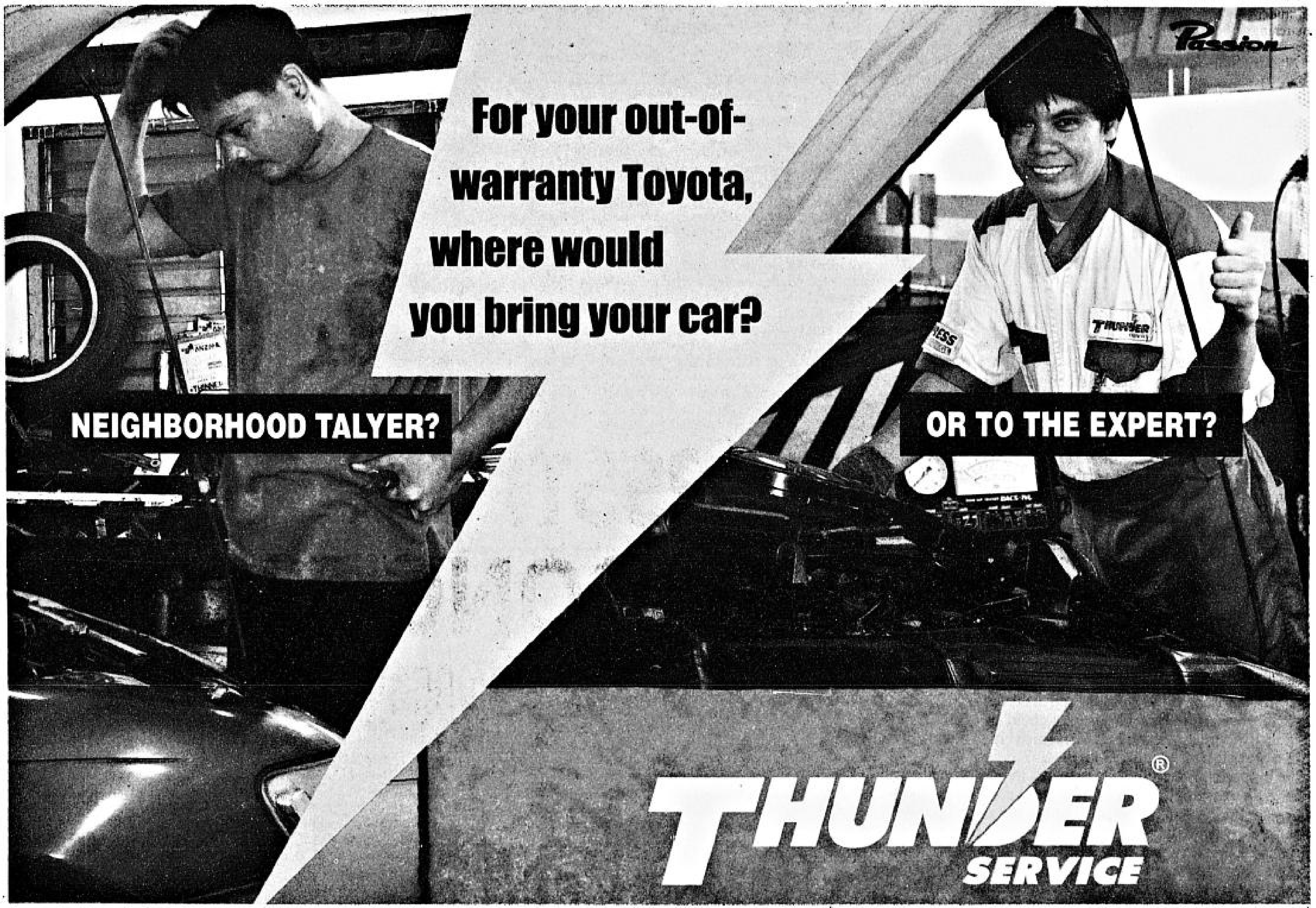
The firebrand cleric has spearheaded the largest rebellion against US troops and Iraqi government forces since the fall of Saddam Hussein last year.

"This decision shows that the al-Sadr movement wants peace and participation in the country's political process, and within the next two days the al-Sadr movement will explain its political vision on this participation," the official told reporters.

"The al-Sadr movement is the largest in Iraq because it has wide popular support and we are sure it will play an important part in the country's political life," he added.

The announcement came amid negotiations between Iraqi government officials, coalition commanders and al-Sadr's office to stop the fighting in the rest of the country after a peace deal ended months of clashes in the central shrine towns of Najaf and Kufa on Friday.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi had invited al-Sadr to take part in elections tentatively scheduled for January next year. *AFP*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Voluntary simplicity

EDITORIAL

AFTER admitting that the country is in the midst of a fiscal crisis, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been calling on everyone to make sacrifices, to practice austerity, to scrimp and save so that the nation can make both ends meet.

The people who are living below the poverty level cannot make any more sacrifices. If they were to be more austere, they would be starving to death. It appears that they are condemned to a life of involuntary simplicity.

It is to the elite, the top 10 percent of the population who own about 80 percent of the country's wealth, that the call for sacrifice and austerity should be especially directed. It is the very rich, the very influential and the very powerful, many of whom live lives of excess, luxury and conspicuous consumption, who should be urged to live lives of voluntary simplicity.

For instance, it would help the nation greatly if the senators and representatives, most of whom belong to the economic elite, would give up their pork barrel, especially during the current fiscal emergency. Abolishing the pork barrel would free about P20 billion that could be used for urgent social services and infrastructure such as schoolbuildings, hospitals, health care and child feeding programs. But safeguards must be instituted to make sure that the congressional pork barrel would not be merely transformed into the President's pork barrel.

Many other suggestions have been made on how to save money for a cash-strapped government. Limit foreign travel to absolutely essential trips. Urge high-salaried officers of government corporations to take pay cuts. Stop the purchase of expensive luxury vehicles for government officials. Stop serving merienda at meetings, etc., etc.

But these are mere details. What is needed is to adopt a certain philosophy and reorient the attitudes of the rich and the powerful. That philosophy could be "voluntary simplicity," which was discussed extensively in a book of the same title by Duane Elgin in 1981.

Voluntary simplicity does not mean living in poverty, but "living with balance in order to find a life of greater purpose, fulfillment and satisfaction," Elgin says. A life of voluntary simplicity, he says, "can have both a beauty and functional integrity that elevates the human spirit."

Elgin says that people who choose a life of voluntary simplicity, among other things, tend to:

—Have compassionate concern for the world's poor. A simpler life fosters a concern for social justice and equity in the use of the world's resources.

—Lower their overall level of personal consumption-buy less clothing, less jewelry and observe holidays in a less commercialized manner.

—Change their patterns of consumption in favor of products that are durable, easy to repair, non-polluting, energy-efficient, functional and esthetic.

—Shift their diets away from highly processed foods, meat and sugar toward foods that are more natural, healthy and simple.

—Recycle items such as metal, glass and paper.

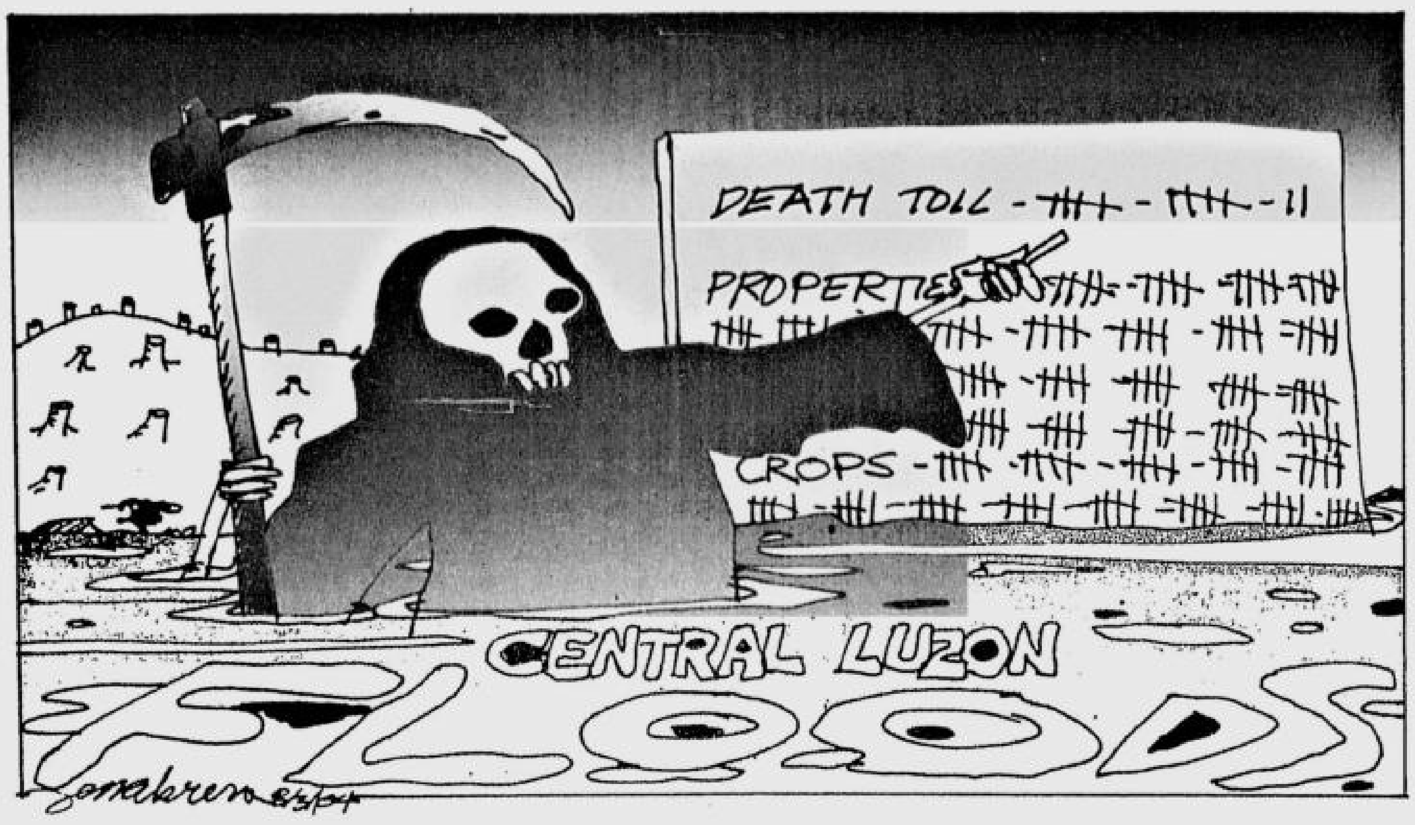
—Change transport modes in favor of public transit, smaller and more fuel efficient cars, riding bikes and walking.

A life of voluntary simplicity embraces the tenets of frugal consumption, ecological awareness, social concern and personal growth. It does not mean bringing down the rich to the level of the poor, but helping the poor overcome their poverty so that they can improve their lot and lead more meaningful lives.

Elgin says that to live more simply is "to live more lightly, cleanly, aerodynamically. It is to establish a more direct, unpretentious and unencumbered relationship with all aspects of our lives: the things that we consume, the work that we do, our relationships with others, our connections with nature and the cosmos, and more."

George Leonard, author of "The Transformation," said that a copy of Elgin's book in every American household could change the course of history. "'Voluntary Simplicity' shows that what this nation [the United States] needs is not so much a change of policy as a change of mind, and that individual citizens, acting on their own, can do more to solve our crisis than can any national administration," he says.

It may be too much to expect every Filipino household, because of the pervasive poverty, to buy a copy of the book. But a start could be made with the decision makers and the economic, political and intellectual elite of the country. "Voluntary Simplicity" should be required reading for them. It should impress upon them the elegance, the logic and the wisdom of voluntary simplicity. The times call for frugal and simple living.



Coco levies and Nuremberg

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE NEW Supreme Court decision directed the Ombudsman to proceed with a P9.6 billion coconut levy graft case, Philip Tubeza reports in an INQUIRER exclusive. It recalls the Nuremeberg and Tokyo trials on World War II war crimes.

Justice Ma. Alicia Martinez of the high court's second division didn't refer to Nurembereg or Tokyo in the decision she penned rejecting the defense offered by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco: that they, and nine others, merely implemented "policies of the Marcos regime" for the coconut industry.

Presidential decrees set down those policies. Thus, P9.6 billion from the coconut levy was siphoned off to buy, then mothball, 16 mills in 1979. That resulted in a "monopoly."

If accepted, that stand, "would create a blanket shield" against prosecution under the Anti-Graft Law, Martinez said. Judicially sanctioned hand-washing would enable grafters to wiggle "beyond reach" of the law.

"Funds used to acquire the 16 mothballed oil mills came from the coconut levy funds," the decision pointed out. These are "not only affected with public interest but are in fact prima facie public funds..."

Presided over by Lord Justice Geoffrey Lawrence, the 1947 Nuremberg tribunal rejected a similar "we-merely-followed-Hitler's-orders" excuse offered by some of the 22 defendants. The 22 Nazi officers included Herman Goering, Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Admiral Karl Doenitz.

In the Tokyo War Crimes trial, Prime Minister Tojo and Foreign Minister Hirota were held criminally liable for atrocities by troops, although they had no direct interaction. Seven of the 28 defendants were convicted.

That view has influenced policy. In 1953, for instance, the US Defense Department adopted the principles of the Nuremberg Code as official policy. Thus, in the 1987 UN Senate hearings on Iran, the decorated World War II hero, Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, bluntly told Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North: you violated your oath by blindly following commands by then President Ronald Reagan.

"It must be the lawful orders of a superior officer," Inouye said then. The over-riding loyalty is to rule of law, not to persons. You "have an obligation disobey unlawful orders."

The Supreme Court did not probe whether Enrile or Cojuangco were functionaries, without options, in a brutal dictatorship. Or were they, as "Rolex 12" members, favored "New Society" pillars?

Martinez limited her comment to the effects of the mills' purchase. This "caused undue injury to the government," she said. The respondents "had a material and personal interest in the acquisition... corrupt practices declared unlawful under the Anti-Graft Law (RA 3019)".

The dictator is gone but the levy continues to haunt. The evil that men do is not interred with their bones.

In "The Political Economy and Impoverishment in the Marcos Regime" (Ateneo University Press), Amherst University's James Boyce points out that Marcos divided the economy among his cronies. Roberto Benedicto straddled sugar and Antonio Floriendo bananas. Eduardo Cojuangco and Juan Ponce Enrile oversaw coconuts.

This structure "extracted billions from Philippine export agriculture," the book says. "By 1984, cronies wrung P9.2 billion from levies collected after martial law."

So, what "law" did Enrile, Cojuangco et al. administer as "good and faithful servants"? Section 5 of PD 275, for example, states that all levies "as herein authorized for the benefit of small farmers shall be **owned by them in their private capacities.**"

By a signature, the dictator decreed that taxes from coconuts now made up a slush fund for his cronies. If Section 5 is not docked as unconstitutional, "Marcos found a legal and valid way to steal," legal scholars noted.

In May, another lady justice, Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, struck down Cojuangco's defense for snapping up a 27 percent block of San Miguel stocks: that they were paid for with private funds. No, she wrote. They were bought with levies stashed in 14 Coconut Industry Investment Fund companies. Those were public funds, not a slush fund for cronies.

"Show how shares, acquired through the use of public funds legitimately became private property," De Castro wrote. Shares used to buy San Miguel stocks are "declared owned by government, in trust for all coconut farmers... They are ordered reconveyed."

Martinez's decision scrapped Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's ruling to junk this case. The Presidential Commission on Good Government had asked the Court to reverse the "the Ombudsman who served as valet for cronies," as the regional Sun Star daily noted in a Sept. 20, 1998 column.

Cebu produced a President Sergio Osmeña, Justice Hilario Davide, possibly even the beatified martyr, Blessed Pedro Calungsod, noted a Cebu Daily News editorial (Aug. 3, 1999). "Then, there's Aniano Desierto, the ombudsman many Cebuanos are loath to claim as their own."

In contrast, Justices de Castro and Martinez are cast in the mould of a Cecilia Munoz Palma, who was as "the only woman justice with balls" in the subservient Marcos Supreme Court. A Pampango proverb puts it succinctly: "A good woman is worth more than rubies."

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No winners

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT was a testament to the heavy rains last week that a whole slew of cars got flooded near our place. These were the cars parked in the area of Gate 4, which is fairly low and fills up with water during downpours. A positively biblical one fell on our earth last Tuesday past midnight.

I know because I was driving home at that time after an appointment when the rain fell in a torrent, whipped up by a strong wind. Within seconds, all I could see through my window even with my wipers swishing furiously across the glass and my lights set to high beam were blurry shapes and blotches of light a few meters ahead. I couldn't hear the sounds of traffic, the madcap clatter on the roof and hood of my car drowning them out. That can be very unnerving when you're driving alone, even if you're used to driving in Metro Manila's streets, which is full of nasty surprises. I was unnerved.

I breathed a huge sigh of relief when I got home, only to discover I couldn't get off the car. I had left my umbrella at home, never figuring I would find myself in the middle of howling wind and swirling water. After waiting for some time and seeing that heaven hadn't quite done with weeping and would not do so for hours, I rushed out and got myself thoroughly drenched. Thankfully, I did not catch a cold next day. But I did catch extra work: Overnight, the floodwater rose and seeped into the cars parked in the area, including mine (and I had perched on top of a sidewalk!) which compelled me to visit the car wash next day.

But this is where I get to my point: On my way to the car wash, I saw something that warned me of yet a calamity to come in addition to the financial storm economists had been warning about, which the literal one around me uncannily presaged. This was around 10 in the morning. The rains had continued to lash out throughout the night and day and a pool of water had collected on the part of the road that led to an alley going to Mindanao Avenue. As I turned toward the alley, I met a procession of oncoming cars, lights flashing vigorously.

Now, this alley is one-way going in the direction of Mindanao. Up ahead, there was another alley that was also one-way leading to the road where I was. That was where this procession should have been. Why were they here? I could only guess that the road leading to the other alley was even more flooded. It was no excuse of course. The fact that your right of way is unavailable to you does not justify usurping another's.

The car in front of me was now honking furiously, ordering me to back off. That greatly pissed me off. The arrogance of the driver, who had no business being there to begin with, was infuriating. I had no choice however but to back off to let him and the cars behind him pass. There was no way they could all have turned back. I was faced however with no small challenge given that several vehicles had now piled up behind me. By dint of twisting and turning, and uttering copious Arab-like curses ("May your seed, etc."), I managed to do so. But it took time before we could all get on our way and recover from frayed nerves.

It hinted to me of dark things to come. Frankly, I can never figure out why, in times of trouble, our first instinct is not to follow rules and think of the common good. I can never figure out why, when faced with a common threat, our first instinct is to screw the world and look out for ourselves. In fact, I can never figure out why, even from the perspective of practicality, one would imagine that anyone, including oneself, would benefit from trying to get ahead in this way. When clearly everyone, including oneself, stands to lose from it. As that small incident that morning proved: The hustling merely delayed everyone, including those who did it.

It's a recipe for disaster.

I don't know if it's become instinct with us. That was by no means the last time last week I saw the behavior in naked display. At the market that same day, I saw people buying canned goods wholesale to prepare for the end of the world, metaphorically speaking, though some people have been known to do that to prepare for a very literal one. I have absolutely no idea what logic persuades people to think canned goods will help during the end of the world. But there's that.

A couple of days later, last Friday night, I caught a glimpse of it again on the road. The traffic on the street near ABS-CBN where you turn left to Morato wasn't moving. It wasn't because of a flash flood. It was simply because the vehicles coming off Morato had turned Morato, a two-way street, into a one-way one. The ensuing bedlam at the intersection ground everything to a halt.

I did say yesterday that we are not going to get over the impending storm without government leading by example. Without government giving up its profligate lifestyle and exercising discipline forthwith. The same is true of us. Government alone can't push back the threat. It will take common effort to do it. Make no mistake about it, the storm will be dark and stark, it is will be one to test our mettle as a nation. The sooner we realize this, the better we can prepare for it. The sooner we can begin to rediscover civic virtue, or never mind civic virtue, that seems far too lofty for us, just plain common sense and the right survival instincts—the one that recognizes that collective survival is the only survival there is.

Who knows? Maybe amid the adversity, we can find character after all. Maybe crisis is opportunity after all, the experience of a common devastation compelling us to rise above ourselves. In any case, we have no choice. Looking out for Number One is just another term for national suicide.

There are no winners there, only losers.

Inspiring story

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TOKYO—If readers have noticed that I have been quite enamored lately of stories from the Athens Olympics, this is because I have been infected by the fierce enthusiasm here for Japan's Olympic team, which bagged 16 gold medals, 9 silvers and 12 bronzes, putting the country in 5th place. My husband and I arrived here recently to visit our daughter Christine and her husband Keiichi Miki, and we found the media all agog about the triumph of their team, led by the 26-year-old petite women's marathon gold medalist Mizuki Noguchi.

Their triumph was eclipsed by the performance of China which won 32 gold medals (for a total of 63 medals), and the media hype about Athens being a sneak preview of the Beijing Olympics in 2008. But the Japanese team's performance, which got them the same number of golds as in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, is an inspiring story just the same of scientific training where little is left to chance, a robust cooperation between government and the business community, and Japan's insatiable drive for excellence. It's a story we easy-going Pinoys could use not only in our sports development, but also in other aspects of our national life.

* * *

An example of Japanese thoroughness is how marathon runner Noguchi, who's only as tall as President Arroyo and weighs 90 lbs., prepared for the searing 35-degree summer heat and 31 percent humidity of Athens by undergoing high-altitude training in China. The Japanese Olympic team had studied the terrain of the closing phase of the punishing 42.2 km women's marathon and knew it would involve running downhill, which happened to be Noguchi's weakness. So they prepared her for that last phase in the ski town of St. Moritz in Switzerland where downhill turns are everywhere.

Noguchi was not the marathon superstar at the outset of preparations for Athens. It was Naoko Takahashi, the defending champion of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. But Takahashi failed to meet the standards this time, so she was dropped from the team. That decision was quite controversial, but Noguchi's victory in Athens was a vindication.

* * *

Such thoroughness, as Malaysia's Straits Times noted, does cost money, but that's not the only thing. After the dismal performance of the Japanese team in Sydney, where it won only five gold medals, there was a complete shake-up in the various sports associations. The chair, vice chair and all the directors of the gymnastics association resigned to take responsibility for its poor showing, and the Japanese Olympic Committee also underwent a lot of changes. Where before it tended to distribute training funds equally among the various associations, after Sydney it studied the results in various events and distributed funds selectively to sports in which Japan had a chance of winning. This shift in tactics enabled the judo and swimming athletes to train overseas and became a decisive factor in the many medals won in those events.

Part of the funds ($245 million) went into the opening in autumn 2001 of the Japan Institute of Sports Sciences (JISS), which offers state-of-the-art sports training facilities. It was in JISS that young Japanese swimmer Kosuke Kitajima, who won two gold medals in breast stroke in Athens, analyzed his form using underwater cameras.

After winning not a single medal in Athens, our sports organizations should clear their decks so that new blood could revitalize them.

* * *

Earlier I suggested that the Philippine business community help in the financing and training of our athletes for international and regional sports events. There are proposals for an "Adopt an Athlete" program or for corporations to help rehabilitate various sports facilities, such as the Rizal Memorial Stadium, especially with our country scheduled to host the SEA Games. We could learn from the Japanese business community whose support, despite the hard economic times, proved crucial for their athletes' success in Athens.

* * *

One way Japanese firms help is by keeping athletes on their payroll. Noguchi is employed by commodity futures trading firm Globaly Corp., which created a track and field team in 1999 and built an athletes' dorm that has low-oxygen rooms similar to those of JISS. Sporting goods company Mizuno Corp., which employs a silver medalist in the men's hammer throw, began bankrolling track and field athletes in 1989, and pays their coaches and the costs of overseas competition. Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., which employs two medalists in women's judo, has a secret training machine at its workout hall in Tokyo that's meant to prepare athletes for world-class competition.

* * *

Various companies also provide athletes with an environment in which they can continually compete, especially in minor sports that have no professional leagues. A children's clothing company, Miki House Group, for instance, has nine sports teams with 100 athletes, meaning, one of every 10 on its payroll is an athlete. Miki spends 1 billion yen yearly to maintain sports facilities, in addition to labor expenses for athletes, and it continues to support less popular sports such as archery.

Another way companies support athletes is by providing incentives to winners. Asahi Kasei Corp. will give Masato Uchishiba, gold medalist in men's judo, a cash prize of 10-12 million yen (about $100,000 to $110,000) while Central Sports Co. will award two million yen to each gold medalist in Athens and 500,000 yen to each bronze winner. Toyota gave its employee, Ryoko Tani, a Lexus sedan worth about $60,000 and a cash prize after she won the gold in women's judo in Sydney. It is considering giving a similar reward after Tani bagged a second gold in Athens.

For Japanese firms, the expenditures for sports are costly, but the advertising gains from playing up their sports superstars are well worth it.

Movies for adults

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE'S news that the management of the SM Cinemas has decided that they would no longer be showing "R-rated" or "R-18" movies, local and foreign, in their movie houses.

This is a big deal for the beleaguered local movie industry since, first, the SM Cinemas, located in the SM malls all around the country, must surely be one of the largest, if not the largest, network of cinemas here. A movie "shut out" of the SM network would surely suffer in terms of box-office receipts and public recognition.

Second, for bad or good, it's been shown that, save for a few "wholesome" or "serious" exceptions, the Filipino movies still making a profit these days have been "bold," "sexy," or "titillating" films. If the most popular and profitable local movies lose their market simply because they're no longer accessible to moviegoers, then it can only drive the endangered movie industry here over the edge to collapse. This is why the TV news reports on the SM network's unilateral "ban" on sexy movies had sexy starlets expressing dismay and indignation. They are only too aware that the ban will bring an end to their livelihood.

Third, if the SM management wanted to protect young people from viewing "inappropriate" movies, all they need do is follow the law. Last time I looked, we had done away with censorship and were following a "rating" system, where a board pre-screens movies and determines what age groups can view them without, presumably, incurring permanent harm to their morals or psyche. The law requires movie house owners to make sure that young adults below the age of 18 are not allowed into theaters exhibiting "R-18" movies. The "R-18" rating is reserved for movies deemed inappropriate for young people, but acceptable for viewing by adults who are supposed to have racked up enough life experience not to be shocked, scandalized or traumatized by anything they see on a movie screen. By refusing to screen "R" movies, are the SM owners saying they have superior judgment over the worthies appointed to sit on the MTRCB?

* * *

THE LOCAL film industry has enough champions to argue their cause, but there's a broader issue here than the survival of the few remaining producers still choosing to make movies. This cause is freedom of expression, a value that we in the media should deem worth raising a fuss over.

A representative of SM management, interviewed on their recently-imposed ban, lightly dismissed the implications of their decision, stating that if producers were at all concerned about showing their films being banned from SM cinemas, "then they can edit their films or re-write their scripts."

Now this is worse than the old regime of censorship, where at least the people doing the cutting and the pre-screening, already considered anathema to artistic integrity, were appointed by the president and thus beholden to the public. What we have with SM's flexing of its movie house muscle is censorship by commercial function. Of course, as theater owners, they have the right not to book a film for whatever reason—it won't make a profit, say, or it would attract the "wrong" audience. But to issue a wholesale ban on movies that have passed muster, albeit for an adult audience, is stretching this power too far. It's nothing less than prior restraint on the media exercised by a private entity, and moral tyranny by a few individuals who believe they have superior values over the rest of us, the movie going public.

* * *

IF only to disabuse the notion of the SM folks that sex and nudity onscreen, which usually results in an "R" rating, necessarily results in seamy filmmaking and purely prurient content, I hope they take time to watch the movie "Jan Dara," now showing exclusively in the cinemas of rival mall chain Robinsons.

Described as an "erotic masterpiece," "Jan Dara" is the creation of a noted Thai director which has been winning recognition in film festivals around the world. Beautifully and artistically shot, with a compelling story line and fascinating characters (it is based on a famous Thai novel), "Jan Dara" tells the story of a motherless (and fatherless, too, it turns out) boy who wreaks revenge on his cruel and unloving "father" only to reap the cruel rewards of bad karma.

Set largely in Bangkok in the years before, during and right after World War II, "Jan Dara" may be viewed by some as a domestic drama, though it takes place in a household redolent with sensuality and eroticism, tragedy and betrayal, cruelty and hate. The complex relations among Jan Dara, his stepfather, stepmother, aunt, cousin and various members of this sprawling household are also a commentary on Thailand's social divisions and hypocritical mores, as well as an exploration of the evolving roles of men and women in Thai society.

* * *

THE FILM captivates with its excellent camera work. I especially liked the soft, warm lighting that not only bathed interior shots with beguiling light, but also lent a golden tinge to the bronze skin of the actors.

Excellent, too, is its production design, that takes the audience back to the years before World War II without being too self-conscious or dominating the storyline.

"Jan Dara" is not an easy film to watch for non-Thai speakers, who must follow the action through subtitles. (As a sitcom character once said: "I don't want to watch a movie I have to read!") But a little patience rewards one with a pleasurable and memorable viewing experience. A large proportion of the audience may be drawn to "Jan Dara" for the sex onscreen, and there is certainly plenty of that, in all possible variations. But they will also find themselves rewarded by a fascinating character study, an examination of a society in flux, and a reflection on the vagaries of fate.

Can our heritage survive?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE RUSH to modernization extracts an inevitable price from the past. Throughout major urban centers, the desire to catch up with other Southeast Asian and Western capitals has exposed the inner city to the pressures of growth. Decades of history are being erased by malls, pavements and the usual plastic and aluminum modernization.

The latest was the demolition of the 1857 cuartel in Meisic that was apparently declared historical by no less than President Diosdado Macapagal, but which wasn't enough to save it from the usual predators. Another tragic example is the neo-classical train station building in Paco that was irresponsibly and callously handed over by government to be destroyed supposedly for the construction of yet another mall by the same developer of "home along the *riles*." Anyone who passes by and sees the smashed windows, the broken doors, and the graffiti on this housing project would know that this is no more than another slum and a breeding ground for crime. And yet this developer was given a priceless piece of architecture and, having neither the sensibility nor the education to appreciate it or the foresight, proceeded to demolish it. Either he ran out of funds or concluded that the residents were unlikely to have disposable income to patronize a mall, so there the façade stands waiting for the first gust of wind to topple over, a reminder of wanton barbarism and government indifference.

In theory, recognized landmarks are protected by certain regulations of the National Historical Institute or the National Museum, but in some cases these safeguards fail because of government foul-ups, unconcern, inattention and the desire for profit. It is in a larger sense, however, that the construction boom is altering the cultural fabric: explosive population explosion is radically altering a way of life. The question is where are we going? What is the vision for this country? Does anyone know or care?

If you observe the helter-skelter manner of development and the apparent lack of long term planning, you arrive at the conclusion that we're caught up in a desire for instant gratification and the no-tomorrow syndrome. In which case aesthetics, history, sensibility, preservation are of no value whatsoever; we're here for what we can get now.

Maybe the demographic changes brought about by an exploding population had a rippling effect on the historic landscape. The increase in population must have increased the pace of change and with change came anxiety. I am told that anxiety always increases the amount of aberrant behavior. I can only assume that the mistreatment of historic resources is merely one form of aberration. But a very dangerous one because the Filipino of tomorrow will have hardly anything to look back on except the passel of excrescence that we have built.

To a great extent, this kind of talk has fallen on deaf ears. The preservationist instinct is not part of our ethic. A desire for modernity often makes careless compromise with the past and certainly with the environment. Waterworld Theme Park & Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna has just created a man-made white sand lagoon shored with Boracay white sand. It doesn't look like anyone thinks there's anything wrong with that beginning with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Building an awareness of preservation has been a slow process. Not impossible, but quite frustrating. Downtown is probably seen as an old, cumbersome area with perhaps not even sentimental value. No government agency has come to the aid of beleaguered preservationists, but there have been letters and texts of complaints about roads cutting into the center of historic towns (like Carcar, Cebu), or bridges spanning rivers and threatening to smash right into a 200-year-old church (Loboc, Bohol) or parish priests constructing buildings out of context or leasing land for fast-food joints. At least now people know that some things are wrong and are willing to do something about it. (Word of advice: get the support of the townspeople first before you get outsiders. You can be accused of meddling.)

While there are still some people, unfortunately many in government, who don't think much about Filipino architecture, past or present, whether it be the work of a National Artist or not, clearly that attitude is changing. There is an effort to document old structures, to protect forest land, landscapes and collect even 1950s artifacts. Awareness and appreciation for these resources are on the rise. It's amazing though that it's generally a government official or agency and lately members of the clergy that you have to cross swords with when these are the very people who should be leading the campaign for preservation and respect for life and the environment.

We all know that it isn't by bread alone that man lives, that he has to have something to be proud of that will bolster his self-esteem as a Filipino and convince him that this country is worth fighting for and it isn't some abstract pie in the sky statistic but something beautiful and real that he can hold on to as a symbol or image of his country.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Scholarship

YOUNG BLOOD

Grace Christine Sales

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT was one o'clock in the morning when I opened my inbox. One e-mail made me scream so loud that my sister thought I had seen one of those disgusting cockroaches again.

I was shouting for joy. The message said I was among the 30 students admitted to the master of law program at Stockholm University in Sweden.

My sister and I could hardly contain our happiness. (I give her the credit for referring to me the website.) We talked about how much fun it would be to have a white Christmas for the very first time. And of course there was the prospect of meeting cute classmates, she added. I knew the course demanded great concentration but it didn't mean that it's all work and no play, right? I was already anticipating that having cute classmates would somehow ease the pressure of doing my thesis.

So how did I do it? After I realized that I couldn't attend every invitation to study abroad published in the newspapers or posted on bulletin boards, and after getting frustrated with assurances of help in finding a scholarship, I painstakingly made my own research. I browsed every website on scholarships, paid internships and clerkships all over the United States and Europe. I did it very carefully, knowing that hitting a keyword on the search box would mean a hundred hits on a single subject. I focused on three schools which had a reputation for admitting Asian applicants and banked on my work experience and grades. Two good recommendations from a former professor and from an immediate employer must have also done wonders for my dream of finding a niche in the combined fields of law and information technology.

But dreaming was one thing and being admitted to the university was another. I realized later that relocating was the hardest part. That meant bringing all the medicines I might need, knowing that there's no Mercury Drug in Sweden. I also had to listen patiently as a salesman explained the convenience of using luggage with three wheels built in as opposed to using a regular trolley wheel. I had to go for a digital camera knowing that I couldn't have films developed at P6 per picture anymore. I had to learn a few Swedish words and phrases and acquaint myself with subway maps for survival purposes. And I had to buy thermal undergarments and try them out in my room set at an ice-cold temperature to see if they worked, which was silly.

Unlike applicants queuing up for tourist visas, the Swedish Embassy didn't require me to appear for an interview or pay any application fees. After waiting for a month, I got my student visa pasted on my passport without any hassle. The lady said the student permit could double as a Schengen visa allowing me to visit other parts of Europe for a limited period.

Finally finding an accommodation in Sweden was a tedious task. Luckily, I found a Filipino couple who is willing to provide me a room while waiting for housing assistance from the student union. They even promised to fetch me at the Arlanda Airport. I am so grateful.

Now, it's just a matter of time before I leave my comfort zone. Very soon, I will wake up in a country where sometimes there's sunlight 24 hours a day. I will have the privilege of studying under a different educational system. I will have to get used to European cuisine. And I will be hearing mostly foreign songs on the radio.

Of course, I have mixed emotions about mingling with people of different cultures that would put to test my independence and social skills. But I feel overwhelmed by the experience ahead of me.

Call me a patriotic freak, but all I want is an exposure in a multicultural setting, then I will be back to put in the service of my country whatever knowledge or expertise I will gain from my studies there. Perhaps that is why I have been given some unfinished business in the Philippines: in order to help me resist the temptation to finding a job and eventually settle abroad.

I will try to do by best so that I will live up to the school's expectations and do my parents and our country proud. After my studies, I shall return ready to face other challenges that come my way.

In the meantime, I will be missing my family, my friends and my dog.

Grace Christine C. Sales, 28, works in the Supreme Court.

IN THE NEWS

Senate President Franklin Drilon

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LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Driver discipline before higher fares

WITH the prices of gas and other commodities skyrocketing, I think it's but fair to increase the taxi fare. But before granting the hike, the Land Transportation Franchise Regulatory Board should first consider the riding public's gripes against the. taxi industry. Foremost among these are defective meters and choosy drivers.

LTFRB must outlaw the practice of asking would-be passengers their destination before they are on board the taxis. The destination should only be asked when passengers are already inside.

Also, the meter should be relocated to a place where it's easily seen from anywhere in the cab. Its present location is such that from the rear passenger seat one has to strain his/her neck to see the meter. It's practically hidden from view so it's very easy for unscrupulous taxi drivers to take advantage of "fast" meters and use "*batingting*" unnoticed. In Thailand and Singapore, the meter is located near the top of the dashboard.

There ought to be a law requiring drivers to bring enough coins and give the passengers their exact change. Drivers usually just round the fare off to the next P10 or P20. Tipping is all right but the gesture should come from the passenger not demanded by drivers. My Korean and Japanese friends have been wondering why they're usually not given their change.

To protect the passenger, all the doors and windows should be in good working order. To make the filing of complaints against erring drivers, the operator's contact information and the driver's ID should be placed inside the taxi and in clear view of the passenger.

Severe penalties should be dealt to drivers who violate laws to victimize their passengers. The LTFRB, police, MMDA and local governments must make sure the riding public is protected. I hope these agencies would not turn a blind eye as they have done with jeepney drivers who, despite the recent generous fare hike, still continue to overload and overcharge.

—ERIC SUGUITAN
ISO
Bonifacio Global City
esuguitan@yahoo.com

Contested long distance calls

I WRITE on behalf of my client, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company. This pertains to the article "Phone hackers syndicate busted" by Alcuin Papa (PDI, 7/21/04) wherein I was quoted as having said that "PLDT would pay international telecommunications companies the cost of the calls, while local companies whose lines had been used by the syndicate can chose not to pay for the calls."

Please allow me to say that I do not recall having made such a statement. Thus, allow me to make the clarification that it is not a unilateral option for local companies to leave the bills for such contested long distance calls unpaid.

The victims of PABX hacking do contest long distance calls that they allege they never made. Partly, this is how PABX hackers are actually discovered.

During the time that PLDT investigates the truth or falsity of their claims, PLDT does not pursue the subscriber for the cost of the calls, although it is always an option to do so since PLDT subscribers assume the responsibility of controlling the use of—and the calls made through—their telephone lines. This obligation is explicit in the Subscription Agreement that every subscriber signs before a telephone line is installed/activated.

But PLDT still pays the corresponding toll due for remittance to its foreign carrier counterpart. Therefore, whenever international long distance calls are disputed by the subscribers and eventually left unpaid for a considerable length of time, PLDT suffers a loss.

PLDT can and does make the subscriber pay for contested long distance calls. More so if the claims of a subscriber (that the phone calls are unauthorized) are found to be false or if the failure to safeguard the long distance features of a telephone line and/or relevant features of a PABX system against unauthorized access is due to the subscriber's fault and/or negligence.

This having been said, I would like to repeat that it is not a unilateral option for local companies who have been victimized by PABX hacking syndicates to choose not to pay for the calls. I hope this letter will correct whatever misimpressions the public may have about contested long distance calls in connections with PABX hacking.

—DAVID S. NARVASA,
lawyer,
Suarez and Narvasa Law Firm,
3/F CSJ Bldg., 105 Aguirre St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

THANK you for your clarification. However, please allow me to say that I do recall you making that statement. And I included it in the story because I wanted to show how the nefarious activities of criminal elements affect local companies, such as your client.

—ALCUIN PAPA,
INQUIRER reporter

Rural development thru 'telecommuting work'

REDUCING our nation's dependence on petroleum products can be done and government can help. It begins when millions of people do less traveling to work. With the advances in communications technology and with more companies accommodating telecommuting work, it is time for government to create programs and incentives to encourage such work arrangements among Philippine companies regardless of their scale of operations.

Another program worth initiating is giving incentives to companies—no matter how huge—that select a significant portion of their employees from within the local community where they hold business. In this way, many companies will go looking to operate from underdeveloped communities and venture into training many of its residents. This would not be a complicated undertaking—jobs have become more specialized and dependent on company training rather than on a generic set of skills brandished by college graduates searching for traditional workplaces. Companies even have the option to locate their departments separately in different communities where each may be most suited: for instance, the accounting department in Cebu, the marketing department in Makati, the IT department in Laguna, a logistics department in Subic—all with a centralized HR department in Quezon City. All departments may be centralized by a strong telecommuting system in a well-managed head office. The infrastructure is simple, the task is manageable, and the system is feasible.

Thus we can attain stronger communities in terms of quality of life, with residents spending more quality time and money with their family and neighbors. Crime becomes less of a problem with that level of community involvement as social costs go down and environmental and health benefits increase.

—TET GALLARDO,
executive director, Workers and
Entrepreneurs Institute
30 J.P. Rizal St., Proj. 4,
Quezon City, 1109, Philippines

A pawn in political arena

THE CONTINUED detention in Japan and the possible repatriation to the United States of Bobby Fischer would be a further violation of his basic human rights. He has not committed any crime. He was just asserting an inherent right when he played a match with Russian Boris Spassky in 1992 in Yugoslavia, despite US objections.

Fischer is the greatest chess player of all time. He is a world treasure and in this sense no nation can own him for its own, much less use him as a pawn in the international political arena.

Millions of chess players and aficionados throughout the world, not the least the International Commission on Human Rights, will surely highly appreciate if Fischer could be released soonest from his detention and be granted political asylum in any country of his preference, like the Philippines.

—ANTERO J. POBRE,
board chair,
Philippine Chess Aficionados and
Masters Association

Unequal taxation

IN HER inaugural address, President Macapagal-Arroyo said that the rich should sacrifice more because the poor have already sacrificed much. But her tax proposals are all regressive in character because they impact on the poor and the rich equally, not progressively. They are therefore anti-poor and pro-rich.

The so-called "sin" taxes will have the same effect on the rich and poor who smoke cigarettes or drink liquor. But in proportion to income, the rich would have a higher disposable income to cope with the increase in prices. So it will be harder for the poor to get drunk to forget his economic troubles.

It is the same with the proposed additional tax on gasoline. The rich, coming from the class of landlords and business magnates, can always increase their rents and profits to make up for the increase in gasoline prices. But the middle class, coming mostly from fixed-income earners, will have to cut their expenses on food, education and leisure to spend on gasoline.

So it is with the tax on text messaging. You don't have to conduct a survey to show that the poor resort more to text messaging because it is cheaper. On the other hand the rich don't mind using voice calls, whether domestic or international, because cost to them doesn't matter. So the tax on text messaging will hurt the poor more than the rich. The gross income taxation system would be inequitable because it would hurt the marginal businessmen more than the big ones who make big profits.

To make the tax burden more equitable, i.e., based on the ability to pay, the government should impose heavier taxes on luxuries and net income. It should start by restoring the highest rate of 75 percent on the top income bracket as was the practice before martial law. This was lowered by then President Ferdinand Marcos to the present 32 percent based on the trickle-down economic theory. But the net profits did not trickle down but got snagged in the bulging wallets of the rich. So it is with George Bush's tax cut for the rich in the US.

—DAHLIA MAE DELARIARTE,
Sta. Cruz, Marinduque

In the dark on how to bring down electricity rates

I READ with interest Pete Ilagan's letter, "Concepcion's judicial interference" (PDI, 8/09/04), and the reply of Meralco's Elpi Cuna, "Who's scaring investors?" (PDI, 8/20/04). Being a consumer, I would like to see our electric rates go down. How? I don't know. What is most important is the truth. Will the truth put Meralco in bad light?

As to Mr. Cuna's insinuation that Ilagan is interested to enter the electricity supply business, I think that option is a privilege granted him and others by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. In fact, this should be encouraged so that there will be more electricity players in the supply sector and thus enlarging the consumers' power of choice. The present monopolistic regime is forcing us, consumers, to accept Meralco's rates, however oppressive or unreasonable they are.

A speck of a commentary will not drive away investors; what will is the high cost of production as a result of high electricity rates which are difficult to recover even under the most bullish business climate.

—SIEGFREDO VELOSO,
president, Federation of
Village Association,
Clubhouse, Alabang Hills Village,
Don Jesus Boulevard,
Muntinlupa City

Deadwood in civil service?

THE NEWSPAPER report that "the retrenchment program is purely voluntary although the deadwood in government are encouraged to leave early" is unclear, confusing and uncharitable. The dictionary defines "deadwood" as colloquial for "useless persons."

Now, who are those considered deadwood (useless persons) in government? Are they hibernating among the rank and file only or also with the directorial/managerial personnel?

No mother or grandmother of a Filipino civil servant will allow her children to be labeled "deadwood," as no deadwood would know that they are indeed deadwood. And their anxiety would further raise these questions: (1) Have they become deadwood because they have occupied dead-end jobs or is it because they have not been given challenging work? (2) Are they victims of a system that does not support employee efforts to pull oneself away from the pack? (3) Do civil servants retire early under the retrenchment program because they accept the deadwood label?

Certainly, if these denigratory labels were part of the text of their government career pre-obituaries, "deadwood" can appear in every retrenched civil servant's epitaph, a nightmare for all mothers and grandmothers of civil servants.

—TB ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview, Quezon City

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INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Do you believe the forecast of UP economists that our economy may collapse in two years?

Yes, i believe d 4cast of UP economists bcos of d budget deficit n d continous corruption in our country—**Lita Logatiman**, *Parañaque*

Yes, bcoz d telltale signs r all there—huge budget deficit, massive unemployment, never ending price hikes, poor tax collection.—**Ricky Vidal**, *Iloilo City*

bcoz rampant corruption & bribery in d govt stil exist.—**John Miras**, *Cebu City*

yes, coz of a) uncontrolled fast growing population and b) some greedy, selfish corrupt government employees—**Antonio See**,

tnx 4
dtexts!
:Þ

Kalookan City

yes! It shows strong indication lately, uncontrollable soaring prices, budget deficits & incompetent public officials.—**Edgardo Malayang**, *Makati*

yes, coz der r stil drug lords, jueteng lords, smugglers, tax evaders & esp graft & corrupt officials out der.—**Ramona Ojeda**, *Quezon City*

yes, if we don't save our money & if we don't reduce d pork barrel of d congressmen & d senators.
—**Acer**, *Malabon City*

"With great power comes great responsibility." ABS-CBN, GMA-7, Smart, Globe and Inquirer, campaign actively 4 d scraping of pork barrel.—**Jo**, *Boracay*

1st things 1st. Abolish pork barrel before any increase in taxes.
—**Al Yu**, *Q.C.*

totally abolish not only the pork barrel of congress but also limit the discretionary funds of the president—**Ching Javier**, *Mandaluyong*

Yes, if the system of running d government won't change.—**Cheng**, *Taguig*

D biggest savings our country cn hav is4 all R congressmen n senators 2go on a 3year moratorium or leave. Dis will save govt huge amounts from budget since we don't nid new laws anyway. Dis is a supreme sacrifice worthy of martyrdom.—**Jerome Escobedo**, *Cebu City*

Yes! No doubt about it! Unless PGMA stops her utang na loob movement!—**Lean Sto. Tomas**, *Bustos, Bulacan*

Yes! because corruption in our country has been going on 4 so long & der wil come a time when we will have 2 pay 4 it. Yes! because the president spent so much of taxpayers money during the campaign & now she want us to b thrifty.—**Richmond Uy**, *Quezon City*

What can be done for us to finally win an Olympic gold?

focus n invest in sports were we have natural edge n remove politics in sports—**Obet Huele**, *Cavite*

start by putting a sportsman 2 head POC not a politician. Give full support n focus on sports where Filipinos can excel.—**Danilo A. Andrey**, *Quezon City*

Wat we nid to remember r d fundamentals. 4 example, dapat matangkad, long-legged ung runner; mahaba ung Reach ng boxers etc.—**Jerome Jamoral**, *Sto. Tomas, Batangas*

our boxing program is in a quandary. our coaches are lagging behind in the techniques of boxing. New ways should be introduced. Time is running out. The SEA games r due next year.—**Gary Teh**, *Manila*

hone talents only in areas where we have biggest edge, allocate more budget and incentives 2 talents n coaches.
—**Anna Pajaron**, *Q.C.*

put more funds & attention on sports dat require pure skill & not size & decisions by judges. archery for example. we should push 4 billiards as an olympic event. we should stop complaining each tym we lose on points & start training ryt after dis olympics.—**Richmond Uy**, *Q.C.*

dpat may disciplina, perseverance, pursigido ang atleta natin kahit malayo pa ung competition, magtrain sila, di kung kailan malapit lang yung laban.—**Vanessa Sebrio**, *Parañaque*

sna next tym, sanayin na ung mga athletes ahed of tym, di lang kung kelan malapit na ung event.—**Gwen Benesa**, *Baguio*

being an athlete shd be full time career wid compensation & benefits similar 2 what private sector employees receive.—**Jimmy Samonte**, *Makati*

We must adopt a simple formula: increase everything for the athletes and decrease everything from the sports officials.—**Jack San Diego**, *Manila*

sports officials shld be sincere and ready 2 sacrifice 4 d athletes, huwag cla ang espesyal at sa kanila napupunta ang malaking share ng budget.—**Jiji Debuyan**, *Negros Occidental*

Eliminate athlts hus aim was only 2 mprove records n not pursue gold. Fil-Am r worthless. train athletes in the countryside with potential.
—**Michel John Allones**, *Iloilo*

we shud set aside politics, prioritize and improve training programs. funds should not go to the pockets of corrupt officials but shud be spent for the training of our athletes.—**Romel Tabug**, *Manila*

News and Opinion

d dismissal of d case against the sons of Sen. Robert Jaworski and Tony Yap is the height of arrogance of the rich and the impotence of the PNP and the justice system.—**Estrellita Ang**, *Manila*

D govt should address ASAP d alarming exodus of RP's doctors and nurses as dis could spell disaster to our health care delivery system.—**Ricky Vidal**, *Iloilo City*

Kudos 2 raul concepcion 4 ur crusade on oil price hikes. Ricardo Saludo (deputy presidential spokesperson) must be employed by the oil companies, not by Malacañang.—**Jack Rubiano**, *Samal, Bataan*

To PNP chief: If possible, assign a police in civilian attire to all public utility vehicles esp. during late hour so as to prevent hold-ups?—**Rene**, *San Pablo City*

2bU

i love 2bU! it captures my best interests!—**Helma Candolita**, *Davao City*

thanks for publishing a list of organizations where we can donate to. sometyms we hav stuff but don't know wher 2 giv to. Because of d list, now I know wer to donate things.—**Jean Alonzo**, *Manila*

Am glad to see volunteerism as your theme. May you inspire the Filipino youth to do something good for others!—**Giselle**, *Cainta*

RP-US troop exercises target 'narcoterrorism'

BAGUIO CITY—American and Filipino soldiers and antidrug personnel yesterday started a month-long training on what authorities called antinarcoterrorism at Camp Bado Dangwa in La Trinidad, Benguet, and the Philippine Military Academy here as well as at the Public Safety College Regional Training School in Davao City.

The exercise, dubbed as Baker Piston 04-2, will be the first to tackle narcoterrorism in the country, considered one of the major transhipment points of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and marijuana in Southeast Asia.

According to a recent United Nations report, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines are the major sources of marijuana in the region. The Cordillera is the country's major cannabis source.

"The war on drugs is a fight for everyone and a better-trained police officer and agent only makes our communities safer against the intimidation and fears brought on by drugs," a press statement from Camp Dangwa said.

Ten American narcotics experts and 100 participants from the Armed Forces, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police will take part in the training.

The participants are expected to learn the methods of drug seizure, including the gathering, identification and preservation of pieces of evidence in the war against drugs using state-of-the-art technology like geographical positioning systems (GPS). GPS is a technology dependent on satellites which help locate persons, structures or remote areas.

"Baker Piston 04-2 is designed to enhance the inter-operability between the military, federal and civil agencies," the Camp Dangwa statement said.

"It will improve their abilities to identify and preserve evidence, evacuate casualties, gather intelligence and instruct others to fight narcotics."

The Philippines is one of the three largest producers of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, according to the United Nations world drug report.

The report commissioned by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said that Myanmar, China and the Philippines are the main sources of shabu.

Shabu from the Philippines goes to Australia and United States. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army says it rescued 'lumad' couple from NPA

DAVAO CITY—The military on Sunday rescued a lumad (indigenous people) leader and his wife a week after they were allegedly abducted by the New People's Army (NPA) in the hinterlands of Paquibato District here.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of Task Force Davao, said Ata-Manobo Datu Rogelio Manambay and wife Inodcayan were found by the 9th Special Forces Battalion and the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Sitio Manipis in Paquibato.

The military official said the two were abandoned not far from the area where they were abducted a week ago.

The NPA has yet to issue a statement.

Also abducted with the Manabays was another tribal leader, Datu Manuel Butig, who was released a day after the abduction. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Laguna traders exploit floods, jack up prices

SAN PABLO CITY—Some businessmen in Laguna were observed to be exploiting the recent floodings that hit many parts of Luzon.

In this city, businessmen in the wet market raised prices of basic commodities—especially fish, vegetables and fruits—to exorbitant levels.

Carrots, for instance, were sold here and in Pangil town at P150 per kilogram last Friday. In Siniloan town, carrots were selling for P200 per kg on Sunday.

Galunggong, whose prices were made a basis of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the past to declare the cost of basic commodities was low, was selling for P80 per kg in San Pablo City. Calamansi was selling for P150 per kg when it used to sell for P30 per kg only. Tilapia in Siniloan was priced at P95 or P85 per kilogram.

Gas tricks

The Total gasoline station in Bay, Laguna, was observed by the INQUIRER to have been deceiving commuters for weeks or months. Prices displayed outside the station were lower than those shown on their machines.

For instance, on Aug. 23, the INQUIRER caught the station charging P21 per liter when its display showed that a little cost only a little over P20.

This was the second time the INQUIRER observed this practice being done by the station, prompting this correspondent to request the gasoline boy to warn the management of such blatant deception.

Other vehicle owners have expressed alarm over the cheating as it might have already victimized hundreds of unsuspecting commuters who were lured to buy fuel from the station because they thought they were getting gasoline and gasoline products at cheaper prices there. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Chavit backs Ping on pork abolition

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has expressed full support for the proposal of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson for the total abolition of the pork barrel.

Singson, national chairman of the League of Governors of the Philippines, said in a statement he will strongly urge fellow governors to talk to their congressmen and to their senator friends and persuade them to give up their pork barrel allocations, if not permanently, then at least until the current fiscal crisis is over.

Singson acknowledged his political differences with Lacson but said that in times like these, "we must cast all politics aside, make sacrifices and work together to strengthen the government so it can better serve the people."

Lacson had challenged his colleagues in the Senate to give up their entire pork barrel for the next budget year to help the government deal with the fiscal crisis.

"Many are perhaps wondering why all of a sudden I am expressing my unqualified support for the proposal of a known political foe of mine," Singson said in the statement.

"The administration, of which I am an elected official, does not have a monopoly on laudable proposals. So when a member of the opposition makes one, we in the administration should not hesitate to acknowledge and support it. We owe this much to the people who chose us to serve them."

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NBI breaks up gang selling teachers' test

LUCENA CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation and officials of the Professional Regulation Commission in Southern Tagalog busted on Saturday a syndicate selling "leakages" to examinees of the 2004 Licensure Examination for Teachers, which was held here Sunday.

In an entrapment operation conducted at the Argonaut Review Center located at Room 302, 3rd Floor Ancon Bldg. along Merchan Street, the NBI-PRC team arrested Aurelio Picardal, Lilibeth Quicena de Jalotjot, Michele Torres and Julios Hermosa.

Lawyer Celso Ginga, head of the NBI-Lucena district office, said the PRC regional office here sought their assistance in the arrest of the suspects who allegedly sold copies of questionnaires intended for the teachers' examination.

According to Rey Cristobal, administrative officer of PRC-Southern Tagalog, he received information from a phone caller about the operation of Argonaut, offering and selling advance information on the questions in the teachers' board examination.

"Coincidentally, there was an assigned NBI agent in our office so we immediately coordinated with the authorities and started the investigation," he said.

A member of the team, Vladimir Pelaez, went to the review center late Saturday afternoon and posed as an interested reviewee.

The NBI said Picardal, who presented himself as the manager/owner of Argonaut, allegedly demanded P5,000 from Pelaez as payment for the leakage or a chance to see the questionnaire for the teachers' board examination.

After the transaction was completed, the team immediately made the arrest. The marked money was recovered from De Jalotlot, who presented herself as the secretary of the review center.

However, from the certificate of business registration from the Department of Trade and Industry, a certain Virgilio Literato de Guzman was listed as the owner of the Argonaut Review Center.

Picardal said he was merely acting as a consultant overseeing Argonaut's operation. He also denied that the center had been selling leaks of questionnaires to teacher-examinees.

"The money that they paid was for the enrollment fee," he told the INQUIRER.

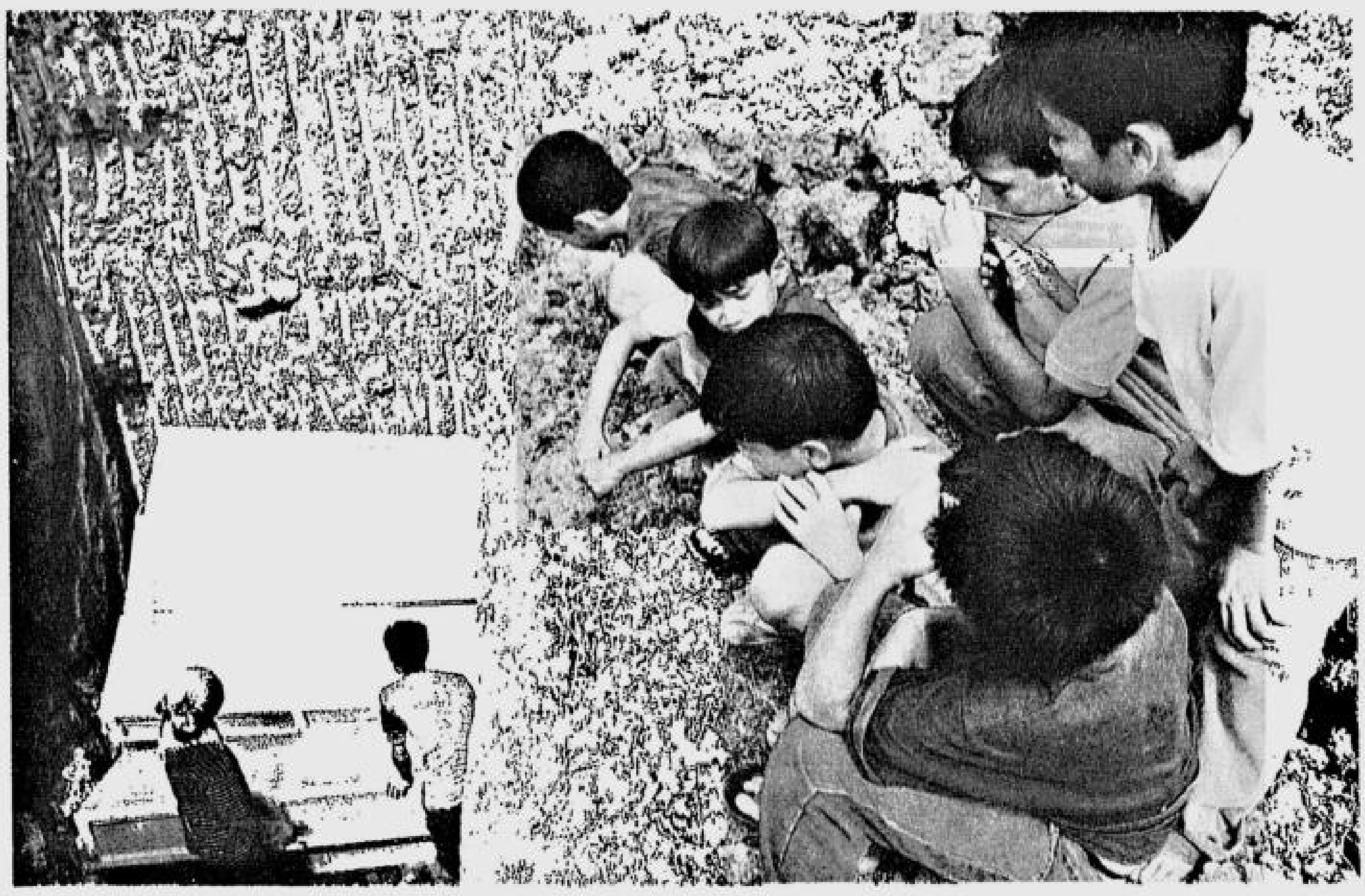
According to some of the Argonaut reviewees interviewed by the INQUIRER, they were assured by Picardal that the questionnaires from the center would surely form part of the teachers' examination.

An examinee said some paid as much as P15,000 to get the leaks.

Some 171,000 teachers took the tests nationwide.

The NBI said recovered computers from Argonaut showed the leaked questions were identical to those in the actual teachers' examination.

"Out of one set of 200 questions, there were only three mistakes from the leakage. The arrangement of the questions had been jumbled compared to the original," said one agent. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



FROM ASHES TO ASHES AP

Children driven by their curiosity watch workers pile caskets containing 22 bodies of mostly Muslims, who were alleged victims of summary executions in Zamboanga City, during a mass burial in the city Aug. 27.

Health execs back use of larvicide pills vs dengue

By Bernadette A. Parco
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Health officials in Central Visayas will ask local government units to consider the use of larvicide tablets to control the spread of the dengue virus.

Dr. Cora Lou Kintanar, head of the communicable disease section of the Department of Health in Central Visayas (DOH-7), said they would base their recommendation on the research study conducted by the German Mosquito Research Center in partnership with the regional health office in Barangay Buhisan, Cebu City, that was performed in June and July this year.

"We will identify pilot areas and invite non-government organizations to help us in the procurement of the tablets for distribution to the people," she said.

Dr. Norbert Becker, scientific director of the research center and a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO), said the use of a biological agent to control the spread of the larvae of the *Aedes aegypti*, the dengue-carrying mosquito, does not have any harmful effects on humans.

"The people do not like the chemical spray Temephos because it smells like rotten eggs," he added.

The research study showed that a resident would only need one to two larvicide tablets per month for each 200-liter container of water.

Becker said that one tablet would cost only around P2 to P3 each. He added the tablet is not yet available in the Philippines and that representatives of the manufacturer, the United States-based Valent Biosciences, are expected to visit the DOH office soon.

Becker reiterated that there is a need for effective ways to control the spread of the dengue virus.

"All the people have to do is put one tablet in a water container and that's it. This procedure is definitely very easy to follow," he said.

"We must take into consideration that dengue is the most serious mosquito-borne disease, next to malaria, with around 2.5 billion people at risk of being infected. There is now an average of 24,000 deaths per year and most of them are children between one to 14 years old," Becker said.

In Central Visayas, there were 331 dengue cases and three deaths recorded from January to May this year. The figures have significantly gone down compared to the number of cases in the same period last year, when there were 829 cases and 14 deaths.

The tablet, commercially known as VectoBac, is a larvicide that can kill mosquitoes during the larvae stage of development. It contains a naturally occurring bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) that is common in soils in the US and throughout the world.

These bacteria damage the gut of the mosquito larvae when they eat it, causing the larvae to starve to death.

Pagasa plans to sell services to weather budget lack

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Battered by the gusty winds of economic crisis, the weather bureau plans new cost-recovery measures to help it recoup its expenses and possibly improve its outdated facilities.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is considering selling some of its special products and services to different agencies to raise money.

With only more than P305 million left in its budget and 70 percent of it being spent on personnel services alone, Pagasa officials said they have to implement what they described as "new and creative austerity measures" so they can deliver accurate and timely weather forecasting and warning, especially in a country that is ravaged by an average of 20 typhoons every year.

Martin Rellin Jr., Pagasa's deputy director for administration and engineering services, said they were looking at the possibility of getting airline companies as business clients because these firms can use Pagasa's rich data bank to upgrade their aircraft operations.

Rellin and Pagasa officials attended the 6th media seminar-workshop here on Aug. 26-29 with the theme "Pagasa and Media: Sustaining Partnership."

PAGASA RAINY DAY SALE

For example, Rellin said the country's top airports—the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Mactan-Cebu International Airport—can avail themselves of sufficient and reliable meteorological observations such as surface wind, visibility, air and dew point temperature, air pressure and other weather conditions from Pagasa.

Lazaro Marqueses, senior weather specialist at the aviation meteorological service office, said they can also provide flight documentation folders to airline companies.

The folder includes documents showing different layers of atmosphere with regard to wind condition, forecast take-off conditions, temperature, wind speed and direction and significant weather chart, among other things.

When these cost-recovery measures take off, Pagasa will charge the airline companies "a cheaper rate, much cheaper than commercial companies," Rellin said.

"We are still at the conceptualization stage. We are now assessing our special products and services. Commercializing some of our special products is a tedious process but we are gearing toward that direction. This is one way to recover our expenses," he said.

He said they got the idea from Thailand, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and France where their respective weather bureaus have been charging airline companies for specific meteorological observations.

Apart from cost-saving measures, Pagasa is seeking aid from international organizations for it to get modern instruments, Catalino Davis, field operations services chief, said.

"We are lagging behind in terms of technology compared to other countries. But because of ingenuity, we maximize whatever resources we have to serve the public. We are happy with our forecast with Typhoon Marce despite the lack of new facilities," he said.

Rural homes without electricity get chance to receive solar power

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For as low as P343 per month, rural households in areas not reached by electricity will have the chance to use modern conveniences such as television sets, electric lights, karaokes and radio sets through solar power energy.

Last week, the Negros Oriental provincial government, the Shell Solar Philippines Corp. and the Southern Sun Solar Power Corp. signed a memorandum of agreement that seeks to give solar-powered systems in rural areas through heavily-discounted loan packages.

The program makes use of the royalty payments of the Philippine National Oil Company to reduce the price of the solar power systems. The equipment and technology required to generate solar power remains expensive.

Discounts

From P35,000 for a 50-watt system, Negrenses can avail of a P15,000 discount through a grant from the Netherlands government and another P5,000 subsidy from the provincial government.

The balance of P20,000 will be given as a loan through participating rural banks and the Philippine Veterans Bank. The loan package allows poor buyers of the solar system units to pay in installments of up to five months.

"The monthly payment of P343 is much lower than what families in the rural areas pay for kerosene or batteries," said Vicente Ortuoste of the Southern Sun Solar Power Corp.

Each solar panel has a lifespan of 10 years to a maximum of 20 years.

Pat on the back

Roberto Buhain, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Philippine Veterans Bank, the bank that would hold funds for the project in escrow, lauded the provincial government's initiative in bringing electric power to the rural areas.

He said this was the first time that a local government unit was involved in this project, which is already being implemented in other provinces in the country.

Rally vs hike in court fees pushes through

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—At least 200 lawyers here staged a mass action yesterday opposing the increase in legal fees, branding it as "onerous."

The lawyers, all wearing black armbands and some carrying placards, held the protest action in front of the Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan Hall of Justice Hall starting at 7:30 a.m. yesterday.

In a show of support, representatives from the Cebu City council and the provincial board joined the protest action.

The lawyers, led by officials of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) chapters in Cebu City and province, urged the Supreme Court to review and reconsider its new ruling on the imposition of new legal fees under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court.

The increase was "tantamount to a high price of justice," said some of their placards.

The new schedule of fees, they said, among others raised to P2,000 the marriage license fee that used to cost only P300. The fee for appeal for remedies rose from P500 to P3,500; naturalization of citizenship from P2,000 to P10,000, and annulment or legal separation from P200 to 3,000.

The lawyers also mounted a billboard and filled it with their signatures to dramatize their protest.

Lawyer Democrito Barcenas, IBP-Cebu City chapter president, said they hope the Supreme Court would rule in their favor in an en banc hearing on their resolution today.

"If the Supreme Court decides in our favor we would be very grateful but if they rule otherwise, we would be constrained to call for a meeting with different organizations to map out other plans to oppose it," Barcenas said.

Barcenas said there was a "massive outpouring of support to our cause and we hope the Supreme Court considers our legitimate request."

Lawyer Dominador Amores, president of the Mactan Island Lawyers League, said the new ruling that took effect Aug. 16 was made without consultations.

"It should have not been done because every one of us is suffering amidst the crisis we are facing today. I do believe the increase in legal rates is untimely and not advisable. It is not even practical," he said.

Cebu City Councilor Gerardo Carillo, also a lawyer, yesterday read before the protesters the unanimous resolution passed by the council urging the Supreme Court to restudy the new legal fees "with the aim of protecting the constitutional right of any person to free access to the courts and ensure the right to seek redress."

Provincial Board Member Joven Mondigo, also a lawyer, joined Carillo's call.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Saturday told reporters here that the increase in legal fees would be reviewed by the Supreme Court en banc after it receives the IBP resolution.

Davide said he could not prevent the lawyers from protesting.

The chief justice, however, denied that the new rates were "onerous" saying that the High Tribunal studied the matter thoroughly before making a ruling.

Davide said implementing the new rate would even be advantageous to litigants because it would even prevent lawyers from delaying the case and filing unfounded cases.

"(Imposing the new rate of legal fees) is the sole prerogative of the court, it is mandated under the law. It is an inherent power of the court. It took us many deliberations. I don't think the fees are onerous. There is justness in the increase. I would assure them that the en banc would take action on their resolution," Davide said.

GA AGRICULTURAL COLL
COMMENC NT

HONORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pampanga Agricultural College awards Leonida Bayani-Ortiz (right), Philippine National Red Cross governor, an honorary degree of doctor of humanities during its 66th commencement exercises in Magalang, Pampanga.

Free English, Math, Science lessons for Makati parents

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT'S BACK to school for parents of Makati schoolchildren.

Beginning September, the Makati City government will be offering free classes in English, Science and Mathematics for parents to enable them to tutor their children at home.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay admitted that most parents are at a loss when helping their children with their homework.

"It's either they have forgotten what they learned in school, need to be updated on new learning techniques, or failed to complete their own schooling," Binay said in a statement.

Binay said the program, while intended to assist Makati school children, also aims to help parents by serving as a refresher course, especially for those who finished only high school.

"For those who did not finish their schooling, we are providing them with the opportunity to learn and receive the equivalent of school diplomas under the non-formal education setup," Binay said.

Information and Community Relations Division chief Joselito Salgado said parents have six months to take the course.

After completing 80 to 120 hours of classes, parents who failed to graduate from elementary or high school could take equivalency exams.

"The program is designed to improve the quality of education for Makati schoolchildren," Salgado said.

All interested parents are advised to visit the Division Office, Department of Education-Makati at 279 Gen. Luna St., Barangay Poblacion. They may also call Jose Darlington at 895-0244 or 895-0235.

The city has initiated two alternative learning and literacy programs: the Makati Alternative Learning through Improved Community-School Interventions (Malicsi) and Non-Formal Education-Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE-A&E).

Malicsi seeks to promote literacy and education by strengthening the ties between the schools and the communities. The NFE-A&E program, on the other hand, aims to give residents who failed to complete their schooling the chance to obtain a certification of equivalency, which could also be considered as an elementary and high school diploma.

Strict scheme for building permits eyed

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE FACT-FINDING committee that cited poor construction as the reason behind the collapse of Sai Building in Tondo, Manila, has recommended a stricter procedure in issuing permits for building construction in the city.

"There is a need to devise a more stringent procedure in the procurement of a building permit and with the process of the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, and the conduct of the annual inspection," the committee said in its report on Sai Building's collapse.

A building permit is a seal of approval issued to builders who plan on constructing a structure, after their building design and plan has been assessed by Manila's Building Official.

A Certificate of Occupancy, meanwhile, is an approval of use of a constructed building, issued following a Building Official's assessment of a builders' compliance with the approved building plan and design.

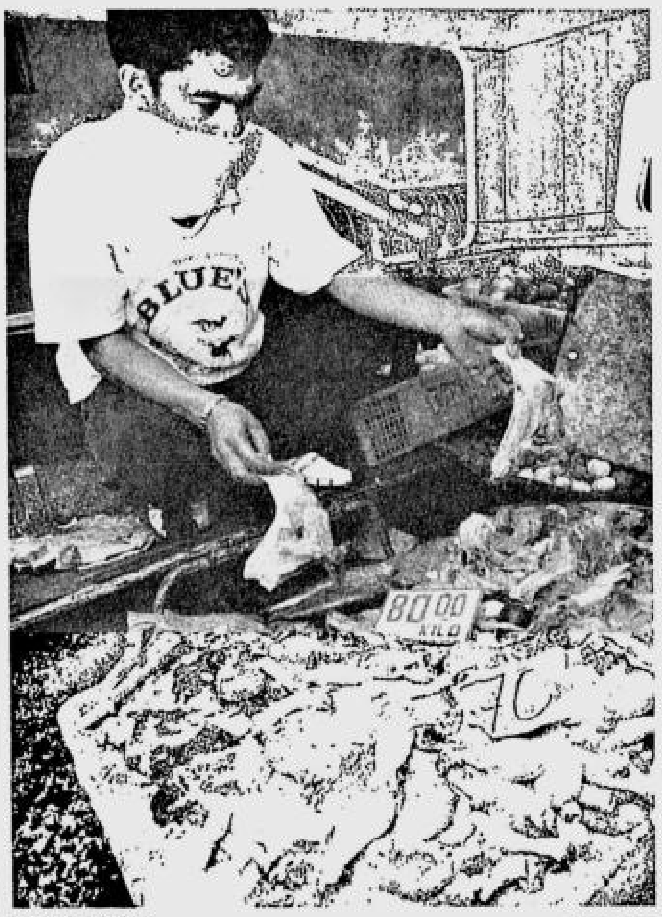
Lenient

The committee had found Manila's building officials to have been lenient in issuing these permits to the owner, designers and builders of medium-rise Sai Building.

The committee, composed of engineers and local officials, had ruled that the building was poorly designed and constructed, leading to its eventual collapse five years after it was built.

Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. had directed city officials to file criminal and administrative charges to Manila's building officials who reviewed the design and construction plan of the building.

The mayor is also bent on making the building's owner, contractor and designer, answerable for the collapse of the weak building.



FOUL FOWL

ERIK ARAZAS

A member of the Manila City Hall Department of Public Service shows some 60 kilos of "double dead" chickens seized Monday and which were being sold to unsuspecting customers along Felix Huertas in Manila for P80 a kilo.

Missing worker in treasure hunting job found dead

By Jerome Aning

RESCUERS yesterday retrieved the body of a treasure hunter's worker who disappeared five days ago in a 160 to 170-foot long tunnel dug up in a posh village in Las Piñas City.

Investigator SPO2 Roger Bato said Guardencio Camana, 45, a resident of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, may have died from suffocation when he descended the tunnel unaccompanied on Wednesday last week.

Due to lack of equipment and concerns about possible gas mask-penetrating noxious fumes, rescuers from the city police and the Makati and Parañaque fire departments were unable to locate the victim.

Relatives of the victim, who have expressed dismay at the slow progress of the operation, accompanied rescuers into the tunnel, which was ventilated.

The bloated and decomposing body was recovered around 4:30 a.m. in the tunnel located inside a house at 18 Violet Road in Pilar Village.

Cop came in time to rescue driver

By Nancy C. Carvajal

JEEPNEY driver Edelito Ong thought he would die yesterday.

Ong was about to enter the jeepney terminal near the MRT station in Crossing, Mandaluyong City, shortly before noon when a passenger seated beside him at the front seat drew an ice pick and announced a holdup.

But Ong was unfazed. He held on to the P360 he had earned from plying his route yesterday morning and fought off the holdup man.

"*Pinaghirapan ko yon mula alas siyete ng umaga* (I worked hard for the money since 7 a.m.)," Ong said.

Ong, 48, exchanged blows with the suspect. He was also able to kick the suspect out of his vehicle. He, too, got out of the jeepney.

Ong said he shouted for help since there were a lot of people in the area, but no one seemed to have heard his plea.

Down on the ground but holding on to his earnings, he saw the suspect still holding the ice pick and ready to lounge at him.

That's when he heard someone shouting "police, police."

Ong said the suspect then turned to the man who shouted police and confronted him, but the man drew a gun and shot the suspect several times.

Investigator SPO2 Ruperto Balzamo identified the man in plain clothes as SPO1 Edwin Fabian. Balzamo said Fabian left his police ID with the responding police team which arrived at the scene.

Fabian also went with the police team which rushed the suspect and Ong to the Rizal Medical Center, but he left without saying anything.

"I owe the policeman my life," Ong said when he was interviewed at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig. He suffered cuts and bruises.

Balzamo said they have yet to identify the suspect, who died from multiple gunshot wounds.

He was described as being of medium build, about 5"5 in height, and between 30 and 35 years old.

Drug suspect escapes from jail guards

THIS one's for Ripley's.

A suspected drug dealer managed to escape while being escorted to a nearby court for trial in Mandaluyong City yesterday.

Police said Marcelo Reyes, who is facing a string of drug cases, apparently freed himself from his handcuff while being brought to the city's Regional Trial Court, which is barely 50 meters away from the city jail.

Reyes was handcuffed with his wife, Susan, who police said was also being brought to the court also for trial on drug charges.

Mandaluyong City Jail warden Supt. Abraham Abella said it was possible Reyes could have wiggled out his wrist from the handcuff because he is thin.

Abella said that based on their investigation, the four police escorts of Reyes noticed the suspect missing as they were going up to the second floor of the city hall where the court is located.

He added the big crowd that had gathered in front of the city hall for the Monday rites added to the confusion and had given Reyes a good shield for his escape.

Reyes, his wife, and a 21-year-old son are facing charges for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Abella put the four escorts—JO3 Erwin Calzita, JO2 Renjie Jaropojop, JO1 Edwin Cerya and JO1 Ronald Balantes—under his custody. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Palace official heads extort syndicate?

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo dismissed outright Undersecretary Nolan Sison of the Media and Ecclesiastical Affairs for being involved in a syndicate that extorted money from high government officials, including Cabinet members.

Sison and Tim Orbos, who was about to be appointed general manager of government-run NBN television network, were caught on camera while demanding P1 million from officials of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

The amount demanded was to buy the silence of a syndicate on the illegal activities of DOTC officials, including Secretary Leandro Mendoza. The syndicate was allegedly composed of active and former media practitioners known as the Philippine Monitoring Group (PMG).

But why didn't the President also dismiss Media and Ecclesiastical Affairs Secretary Dodie Limcauco, since he knew what Sison and Orbos were up to?

In fact, according to my sources, Limcauco headed the PMG.

During the meeting between Nolan and Orbos, on the one hand, and DOTC officials, on the other, the two allegedly boasted that their group received P5 million from Amable Aguiluz for being appointed ambassador to Bahrain.

During the same meeting, Orbos said that Limcauco made a big amount from a deal with Maynilad, one of two private firms supplying water in Metro Manila.

On the other hand, Sison said that former agriculture secretary Cito Lorenzo was trying to derail the appointment of his replacement, Secretary Arthur Yap. He intimated that Lorenzo sought the services of the PMG in destroying Yap.

The two were not aware that every word they said was recorded on a hidden camera.

They forgot that the guy they were extorting money from was Mendoza, who was former chief of the Philippine National Police.

***

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras called to say he didn't bet much and therefore didn't lose much when he gambled at the Heritage Hotel casino.

Paras said he chanced upon some friends at the hotel who invited him to join in the game of chance.

"I didn't play high stakes, Mon," he said.

Speaking of gambler-officials, Makati City Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado loses a minimum of P1 million every time he goes to the casino. He plays three times a week, according to my casino spy.

Last Saturday, Mercado lost P1.2 million at the Marina Hyatt Hotel casino in Malate, Manila, according to my spy.

***

Beware of the thieves at the health club at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza.

Jay Sison, a regular member of the health club, lost his wallet while it was inside the health club locker last Aug. 9. The thief was immediately able to use up P29,000 on his credit card.

Sison was not the first victim. A certain Marvin Agustin lost his cellular phone on April 2; Rolando Macasaet lost P25,000 cash and a cell phone on Aug. 3; Mike Tiu Tan lost his bag containing valuables. The thief or thieves pried open their lockers.

The hotel management allegedly refuses to compensate the victims.

***

I mourn the passing away of radio broadcaster Wilfredo "Baby" Camomot last week. He was 65.

Camomot was president of Radio Veritas, a Catholic station, at the time it was at its peak in popularity in the early 1990s. A genius at radio programming, he conceptualized the most popular programs of Veritas at the time.

(I benefited from his genius as he was the one who convinced me join Veritas through the public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo.")

He got out of Veritas as a result of infighting by officers in the organization, including priests, and went into semi-retirement.

Averse to pomp and pageantry, he left a will that he be cremated immediately upon his death. That's what his family did. His ashes are with his son, Pocholo, who lives in Los Baños, Laguna.

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44 gas stations found duping buyers

By Tina Santos

AS IF the rising gasoline and diesel prices were not enough burden to the public, several oil stations were found to have been deceiving their customers.

In Quezon City, an inspection conducted by the City Treasurer's Office showed that at least 44 of the 119 gasoline stations belonging to at least 10 establishments, were shortselling their clients, according to city treasurer Victor Endriga.

Those gasoline stations found shortselling were Shell stations in Barangays Pag-asa, Central, Doña Josefa, Veterans, Maharlika, Sto. Domingo, Bahay Toro, St. Ignatius, Balintawak, Vasra and Regalado Street;

Caltex stations in Barangays Pinyahan, Sacred Heart, Bangao, Balintawak, Bahay Toro, Masambong, Tatalon, Talayan, Kristong Hari, Immaculate Conception and Apo Street;

SeaOil gas stations in Barangay Bahay Toro, Doña Josefa, Tuazon, Salvacion, South Triangle, Culiat, Gulod, North Fairview, Kaligayahan and Alcaraz Street;

Petron gas stations in Barangays Malaya, Laging Handa, Kristong Hari, Diliman and Talipapa.

Also found duping the public were Total gas station in Green Valley; Jetti Gas; Uni-oil in Barangay Lourdes; Flying V in Brixton Hills; Citioil in West Edsa and Metro Oil Subic in Barangay Mariana.

Endriga said that due to the non-stop increase in oil prices, they were prompted to form a raiding team that would particularly oversee the operation of gasoline stations in the city.

Based on his assessment, the total penalties and surcharges incurred by the 44 gas stations for the months of July and August had reached P323,311.50.

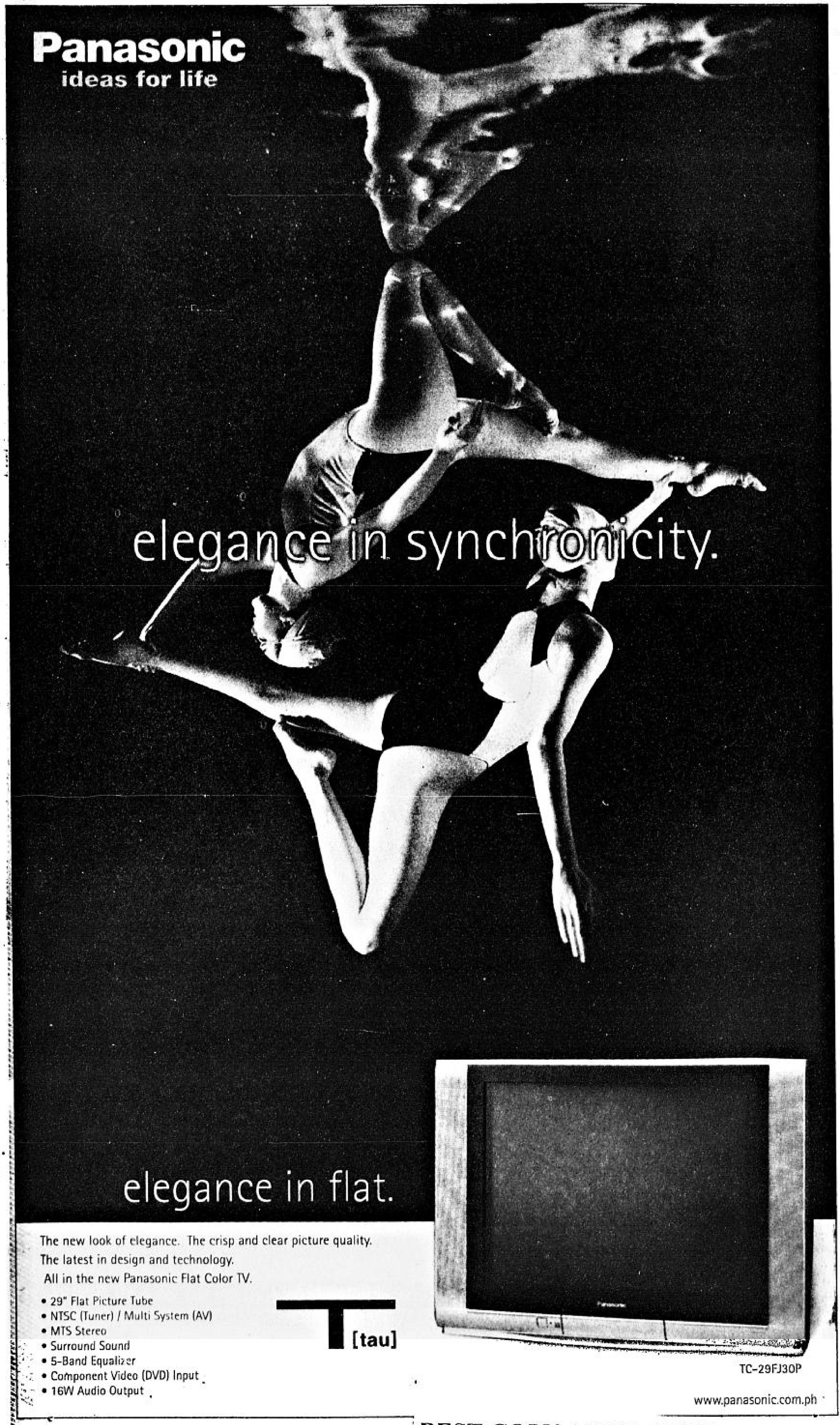
Through the use of a calibrating bucket, the gasoline stations were found to be deducting more than the "tolerable" 10 milliliters for every 10 liter bucket of the oil products.

But he was quick to add that they immediately made corrections in the gasoline pumps of the establishments that were found to be shortchanging consumers.

As a first offense, gas station owners were ordered to pay P400 each as fine.

For second offense, violators will be fined P800, while third-time violators will face closure of the establishment.

Endriga noted that article 234 of the Local Government Code mandates his office to perform such function (inspection of gas stations).



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After delays, Sevilla bridge opens today

By Luige del Puerto

THE SEVILLA Bridge in Mandaluyong City, the construction of which has caused headaches to motorists and losses to shops and stores in the area, will be finally opened today.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Florante Soriquez said in a statement released yesterday that the bridge has been completed "two months ahead" of its revised schedule.

The news elicited a huge sigh of relief from Mayor Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales II. But while he is relieved, the mayor said he hopes nothing like it would ever happen again—or at least, not in his city.

"I hope that never again should any government project suffer its fate," Gonzales said, referring to the delays that Sevilla Bridge had.

"While there is a sense of relief, this is one of the projects that contributed to the great suffering of the general public, particularly residents of Mandaluyong," he said.

The new 5-span, P24-million bridge replaces the 65-year-old structure that connects Mandaluyong City and Manila.

Its closure since August 2003 has received widespread condemnation from motorists, businessmen and media organizations, which devoted pages and air time denouncing the construction's delays.

Anti-crime drive goes into high gear

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE POLICE and the private sector have teamed up to rid the streets of crime by deploying teams of motorcycle-riding policemen in crime-prone areas.

The project is part of the newly-launched Crime Assistance Teams (CAT) of the National Capital Region Police Office, which was created by its new chief, Gen. Avelino Razon, to increase police visibility.

The CAT teams from the NCRPO will be composed of motorcycle-riding policemen from the Regional Special Action Unit, headed by Sr. Supt. Jonathan Miano.

The groups are expected to bring down, if not eradicate, the incidents of cell phone snatching, holdups and bank robberies, among other street crimes.

The project got a big boost yesterday, with the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (FFCCCI) donating 10 motorcycles to the NCRPO.

FFCCCI president Robin Sy turned over the motorcycles to newly-appointed Philippine National Police chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay and Razon yesterday morning.

Tanong ng Bayan

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I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: **Isang 21" color TV set!**

I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.

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Buenavista closes out RP debacle

Filipino marathoner 67th

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Long-distance runner Eduardo Buenavista closed out the Philippine participation in the 28th Olympic Games Sunday in typical fashion—near the rear end.

The marathon, final event of the Games, provided the final stage for a Philippine debacle less than an hour before the Games of the 28th Olympiad closed at the Olympic Stadium in an all-night party after 16 days of competition.

The 4-foot-11 Buenavista started near the rear of the pack, stayed there throughout the race and finished there.

In fact, just finishing the race was already a struggle for him. He strained his left calf muscle in the first five kilometers and resisted the urge to quit after 30 kilometers.

"*Tiniis ko na lang* (I just endured the pain)," he said.

Buenavista dragged himself into 67th place out of 81 finishers and 102 starters, as he struggled through the hilly route .from Marathon outside Athens in two hours, 28 minutes and 18 seconds. He crossed the finish line at the ancient Panathinaiko Stadium more than 17 minutes after Italy's Stefano Baldini breasted the tape to win the race.

Baldini took the lead from the faltering Vanderlei de Lima of Brazil, who was earlier attacked by a spectator while leading the race, with some five kilometers left to cross the finish line in 2:10.55.

Mebrathom Keflezighi of the United States also passed the Brazilian to take the silver in 2:11.29.

De Lima held on to third for the bronze with a time of 2:12.11, lucky to be in the medal after a spectator grabbed him while he was leading the race with 10 kilometers to go. He was more than 40 seconds ahead of Baldini and Keflezighi when a man in tights and tunic ran across the course and pushed him into the crowd.

The startled De Lima was unhurt and he picked himself up to resume the race, shaking his head in disbelief at what had been described as the only breach of security throughout the Games.

The medalists, who finished at the stadium where a Greek runner, Spyridon Louis, won the marathon in the inaugural holding of the modern Games in 1896, were later taken by bus to the main Olympic Stadium where they received their medals before a capacity crowd of 72,500 as part of the closing ceremonies.

Buenavista was too exhausted to attend the rites, where taekwondo fighters Mary Antoinette Rivero, the 16-year-old girl who came closest among the 16 Filipino athletes to winning a medal, and Tshomlee Go represented the Philippines. Go carried the Philippine flag during the wild and wooly ceremonies.

The 26-year old Buenavista, who ran in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in Sydney four years ago, was just hoping to finish in the top 10 or break his RP best of 2:18 44. But the Baguio-based Air Force man, who did not even bother to check out the hilly marathon course before the race, never got close to either target.

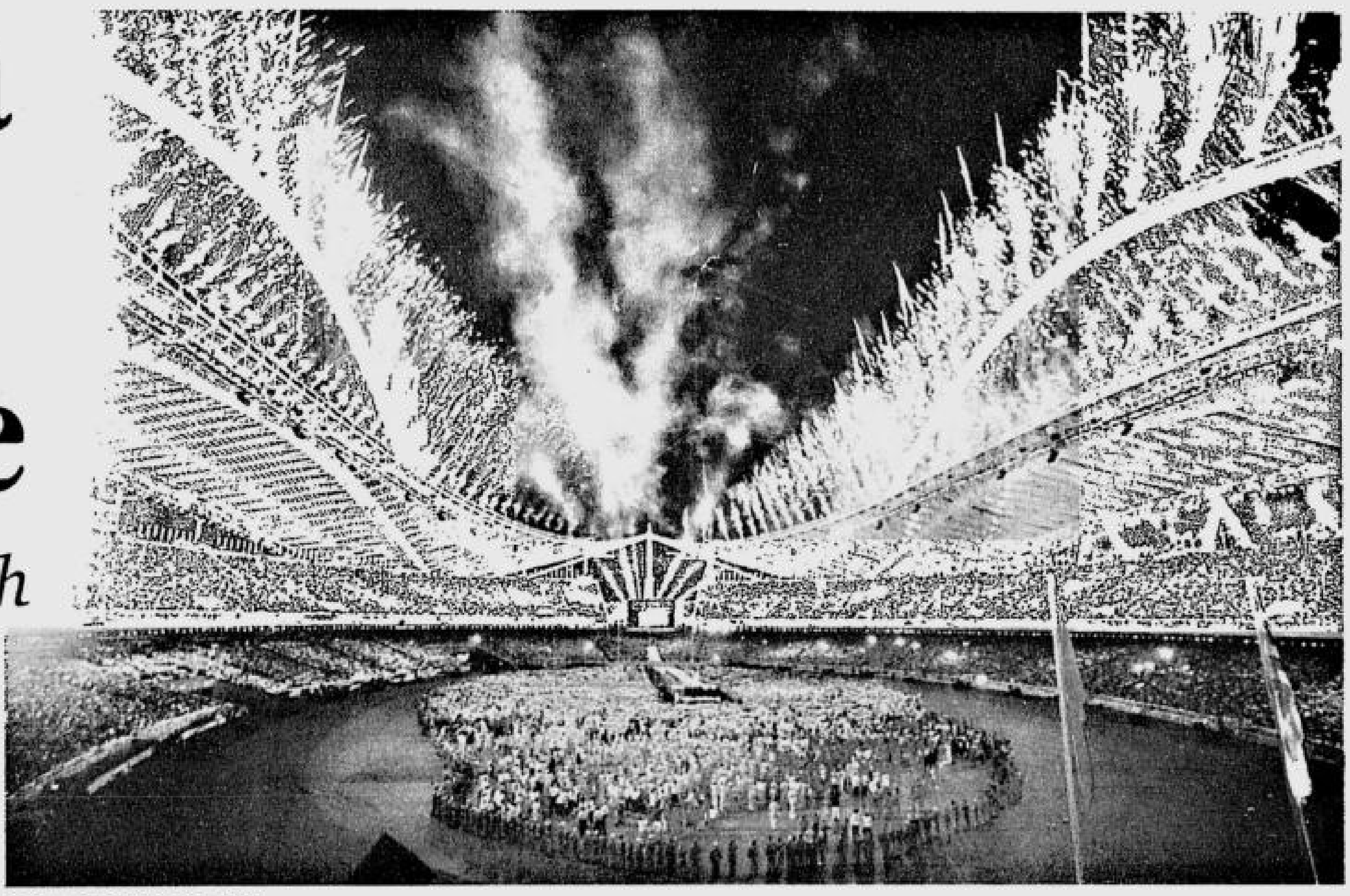
He was almost 10 minutes off his best, but his best would have been good enough only for 28th place.

The diminutive (4-foot-11) Filipino wilted in the Athenian summer heat, which pegged the temperature at 30 degrees Celsius at the start in Marathon northwest of Athens. His leg began to hurt when he strained the muscle above his left knee in the first five kilometers.

He had only a week in Athens to prepare, and all that time he worked out inside the sprawling Olympic Village. Sunday was the first time he saw the starting line in Marathon, the place northwest of Athens from where the long-distance foot race derived its name, and the long Grecian blue line that indicated the marathon route.

So the last Filipino hope—not that Filipino sports officials had expected much from him—finished the race in the true Olympic spirit.

For that was only thing left for him to do for a Philippine team that had been shut out of the medal for the second straight Olympiad.



ON TO BEIJING 2008
Fireworks, spectacular and awe-inspiring, light up the Olympic Stadium in Athens during the closing ceremonies early Monday morning (Manila time) of the 2004 Olympic Summer Games. Earlier, Beijing Mayor Wang Qishan received the Olympic flag from IOC president Jacques Rogge in a ceremony symbolizing the Chinese capital's acceptance of its hosting chores for the 2008 Games. AP

'NC,' Olympic stories on A21

'AWAKENING' IN ATHENS

Heartwarming, heartbreaking

(First of two parts)

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—It was lights out for the Philippine team on Sunday as the Olympic flame was extinguished, signaling the end of the 28th Olympic Games.

.It took two teenaged girls, one barely out of her childhood, to stand 10 feet tall and provide the only beacon of light for the Filipinos drifting for 16 days in the dark and stormy seas of Olympic competition.

Jasmin Figueroa, 19, and Mary Antoinette Rivero, 16, provided the heroism and picked up the Philippine banner where everyone else stumbled.

Heartwarming and heartbreaking. That's how Philippine Olympic Committee president

HEARTWARMING/ A20

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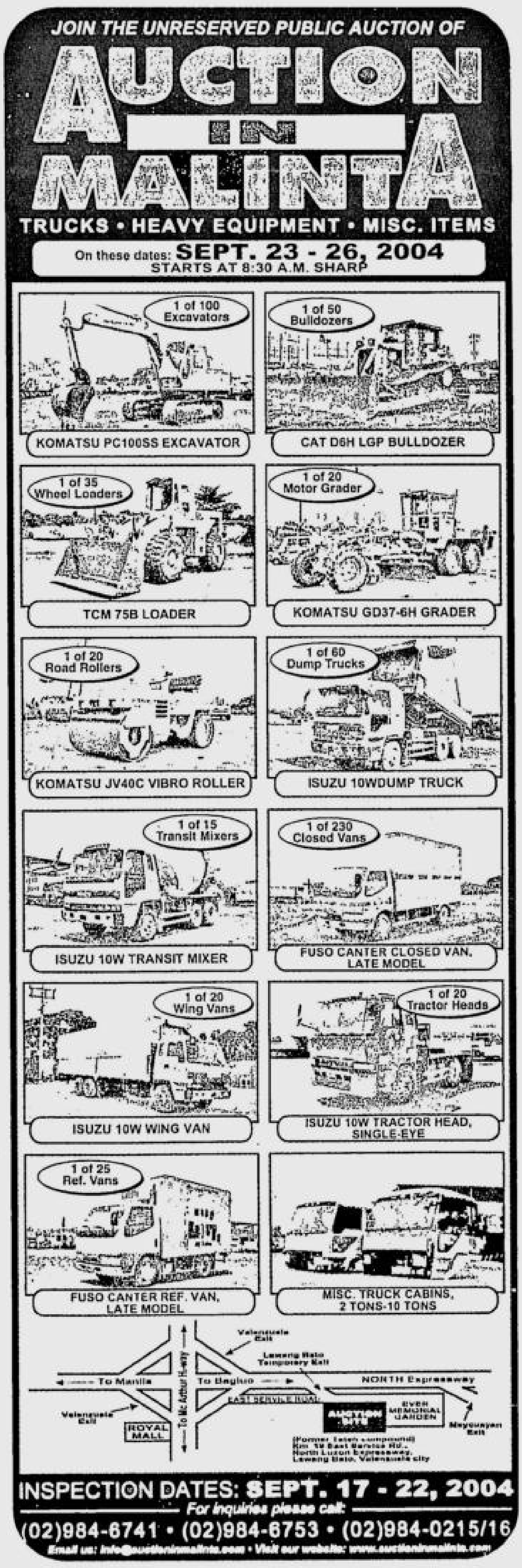

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'Awakening' in Athens: Heartwarming, heartbreaking

From page A19

Celso Dayrit assessed the Philippine performance in Athens 2004, the second straight Olympiad in which the Filipinos were shut out of the medal race.

"We're a bit disappointed that we won no medals, but we achieved more in Athens than we did in Sydney (2000)," said Dayrit.

He pointed to Figueroa and Rivero as, without any doubt, the country's best performers. Both girls, wide eyed and just happy to be in Athens, were living out their Olympic dream but had not expected to carry the load for the 16-man Philippine team.

Figueroa, in fact, was just a wild card, tapped to complete the 64-woman field in the Olympics.

But when called upon to carry the Philippine banner, they responded with poise and maturity well beyond their years.

Figueroa opened the Games when she upset former world champion Natalia Valeeva in the round of 64 of the women's individual archery competition at the Panathinaiko Stadium. Displaying nerves of steel and absolutely no reverence for her elders, she lost in the next round, but only by a couple of points, to Spain's Almudena Gallardo, and eventually finished 27th overall.

That was the best finish by any Filipino archer, male or female, in the Olympic Games ever.

And toward the end of the Games, another girl found herself with the Philippines' final chance at its first ever gold medal in the Olympics.

Just out of the junior taekwondo program, Rivero was fighting in the women's under-67 kg class. She single-handedly carried the whole delegation on the verge of a medal when she won her first two fights in the preliminaries—a hard-earned win over Argentina's Vanina Sanchez Beron and an easy one over the Netherlands' Charmie Sobers.

Needing only a win to take the silver and another to take the gold, Rivero had the misfortune of facing the local Greek heroine, Elisavet Mystakidou, and the wildly partisan hometown crowd at the Faliro Sports Pavilion. She lost what many believed was a hometown decision.

Still she had a chance to win a bronze in the repechage round but, unknown to many, including team officials, she had sustained an injury in each of her first three fights. She was nursing bruises all over her body and injuries in the ankle, leg and hand.

Against the Korean favorite, Hwang Kyung Sun, she fought injured. She could hardly lift her leg and execute her moves. Though she never gave up, she lost, and with her loss went the Philippines' last chance for a medal.

But her performance, especially in the third round where she believed she was robbed of a medal, earned the admiration of many who saw her fight.

"She looked taller and stronger when she was fighting. It's hard to imagine she's only a girl," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado.

"Toni deserved to win a medal, but it's so difficult to go against the hometown crowd. But then, that's part of the game," said Dayrit. "She may not have won a medal, but certainly she won the hearts of many who saw her perform."

Donald Geisler III, too, won many hearts when he insisted on fighting on one leg after he dislocated his left ankle in the heat of battle in the men's under-80 kg in taekwondo.

Geisler had lost his first fight on a close decision—on superiority—to eventual finalist Bahri Tanrikulu of Turkey. He still had a chance for the bronze in the repechage.

The repechage match with Tunisia's Hichem Hamdouni was tied at 7-all in the second round when he came out of a skirmish with a dislocated ankle.

(To be concluded tomorrow)

Reyes, Bustamante gain On Cue s'finals

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are in top form when they're at home.

Reyes, a billiards Hall of Famer, and Bustamante, the World Pool Association No. 2, warded off separate rivals yesterday to book outright semifinal seats in ABS-CBN's On Cue 3: Continental Challenge at the Galleria Trade Hall of the Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Showing why he's a five-time SMB 9-Ball Tour titlist this year, Reyes nipped reigning World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-7, while Bustamante, the 2003 International Challenge of Champions winner, bested 15-year-old Taiwanese sensation Wu Chia-ching, 9-3, as they led the Filipinos' assault in the $48,000 tournament.

The 50-year-old Reyes will face either compatriot Lee Van Corteza or Wu in the crossover, Race-to-11 Final Four.

Bustamante, 40, on the other hand, will meet the winner between Pagulayan and Mika Immonen of Finland.

With the count tied at 5, Reyes claimed the next racks for an 8-5 edge. Pagulayan fought back to within 8-7, but a bad counter move on the No. 4 ball on the 16th rack dashed Pagulayan's hopes as Reyes proceeded to settle the issue.

Corteza, winner of the SMB Tour Manila leg, bowed to Pagulayan, 9-5, relegating him to the loser's bracket. A 9-6 triumph over Chinese-Taipei's Yang Ching-shun propelled him to the semis.

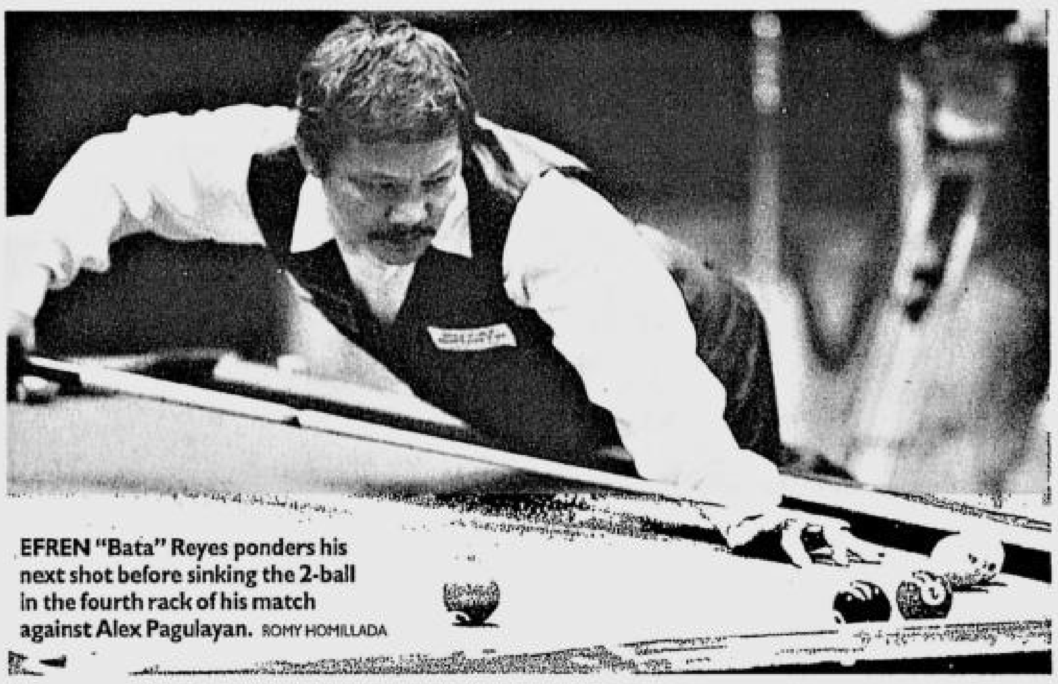
The fourth man in Team Philippines, Warren Kiamco, got booted out by American Rodney Morris, 9-6.

Against Wu, Bustamante started jittery and was held to a 3-3 count. Bustamante found his rhythm on the seventh track and blanked Wu the rest of the way.

The champion of this event organized by ABS-CBN Sports, headed by Gabby Lopez and VP for Sports Peter Musngi, and held with the participation of Puyat Sports, gets $20,000.

The runner-up gets $10,000, the third and fourth placers $5,000 each, and the fifth to eighth placers $2,000 each.

Roy Luarca



EFREN "Bata" Reyes ponders his next shot before sinking the 2-ball in the fourth rack of his match against Alex Pagulayan. ROMY HOMILLADA

First Gent tells Filipino athletes: Train harder

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TRAIN harder!

That is the marching order by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to Filipino athletes in the light of their recent debacle in the Athens Olympics.

Arroyo, who has pledged to help the country win the overall championship in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, nevertheless said he's proud of the way the 16 athletes performed during the Games which ended Sunday.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain relayed these messages to the athletes in Athens in a heart-to-heart bull-session with them before taking the flight home.

"I was a bit sad but extremely proud of their big fighting heart," said Buhain in a text message. "I explained to them that the Olympics can be overwhelming, which can be very distracting."

SPORTSWATCH

URBL accepting referees, staff

THE UNITED Regional Basketball League, a grassroots program featuring camps, clinics and competition, is set to open soon and is now accepting applications for additional referees plus field operations staff. URBL commissioner Ramon Fernandez, the PBA's first four-time Most Valuable Player, announced yesterday that his office will now entertain applicants from 2-5 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the URBL office at Suite 207, Parc Chateau along the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. Fernandez said teams from Cebu City, Bogo Cebu, Pampanga, Ilocos Sur and Quezon have made their commitment to the mission-vision of the URBL.

UST-B stuns San Beda netters

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas-B upset San Beda College, 2-1, to rock the charts of the men's team division in the 2004 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig over the weekend. Favorite University of the Philippines blanked Ateneo-A, 3-0, while College of St. Benilde, routed UP-B, 3-0, in the event organized by CTW and supported by adidas and Prince/Nassau as the official balls. Other first round winners were De La Salle-B over CSB-A, 3-0, and Ateneo-B past University of Asia & Pacific, 3-0.

P.2M at stake in Bengay badminton

OVER P200,000 worth of cash and prizes will be up for grabs in the first Bengay Badminton Showdown, a three-division, non-ranking tournament set to unfold on Sept. 17 at the Club 650 Badminton Center in Libis, QC. The three divisions are the Open division, the 18-under class, and the 40-and-above group. The centerpiece Open division offers P15,000 to each winner in five categories, namely men's singles, ladies' singles, men's doubles, ladies' doubles, and mixed doubles. Organizers of the event, headed by tournament chair and former Olympian Weena Lim, said registration is ongoing with the deadline set on Sept. 4. For details, call Ernie Legaspi at 8937472 to 73 or Tad Abello at 8120887/0917-332-4533, or e-mail bengaytournament@yahoo.com. The event is supported by INQUIRER Badminton, Crossover 105.1 and Carlton.

NBA Mad Skillz set Sept. 2-5

NBA Madness takes over Metro Manila from Sept. 2-5 with Coca Cola's NBA Mad Skillz—an NBA Pre-Draft Camp activity designed to test players' fundamental basketball skills—as one of the highlight events. Using actual drills undergone by NBA players, the objective of the competition is to identify the Philippines' outstanding all-around basketball players. The program has six authentic NBA drill stations designed to assess a player's individual skills. It includes drills in jump-shooting, dribbling, passing, freethrow shooting, speed and footwork, and rebounding and layups. To join, players may pre-register at designated NBA Mad Skillz booths which will be set up at selected schools and malls beginning Sept. 2. A registration booth will also be set up at the NBA Madness site at SM Megamall's Parking Lot C. Interested parties may call Events Work at 8907777 and ask for Shirley, Sharleen or Nelia.

National Interschool taekwondo set

THE PETRON National Interschool Taekwondo Championships will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado announced yesterday. "The event highlights taekwondo progress in the Philippines and gives an opportunity for jins to display their skills as they vie for honors in different weight divisions," PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong said. The entries will be competing in six divisions in the tournament sponsored by Petron and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Accel. He added that medals will be up for grabs in the seniors (men and women), juniors (men and women), mid-junior (men and women), grade school (boys and girls) categories. Among the schools that will be fielding teams are De La Salle University-Taft, University of the East, San Beda College, Letran College, Don Bosco Makati and Mandaluyong, St. Scholastica's College and Paco Catholic School.

Post-Cup fiasco: No more outright slots

By Musong R. Castillo

THE DEBACLE suffered by the Philippines in the recent Putra Cup in Indonesia has left the national golf association with no choice but to tinker with the old formula in the selection of the members of the national team in the future.

The golf body has decided not to give an outright berth to anyone for the team that will see action in the World Amateur team championship in Puerto Rico later this year.

This came after young Michael Bibat and veteran Boyet Saragoza—who both went through qualifying—stood out for the Philippine team in Indonesia.

The ruling also makes it mandatory for Juvic Pagunsan, the country's No. 1 amateur, as well as team members Marvin Dumandan and RP Amateur champ Jun Bernis to go through a series of qualifying rounds to make the team.

"We need to do this to be able to get the best players with the most desire to represent the country," said NGAP secretary general Luisito Fernandez.

Fernandez, a retired vice admiral who will be the nonplaying captain in the World Amateurs, yesterday called a meeting with Putra Cup captain Jun Galindez, coach Roger Retuerto and head of delegation Jake Ayson.

Fernandez said that, unlike in the Putra Cup when the team was assembled just three weeks prior to the tournament, a solid, more feasible training program that could start as early as next week will be put in place.

A team that included Pagunsan, Angelo Que and Jherome Delariarte finished third behind the United States and France in the 2002 World Amateur in Malaysia.

The Philippines slumped to fourth in the Putra Cup—its second-worst finish in the 44-year history of Southeast Asia's official team championship—after Pagunsan was scratched for failing to make it back from the US Amateurs.

In his absence, Dumandan and Bernis didn't crack par in four rounds and finished with a combined 19-over-par on 295 and 300 aggregates, respectively.

Bibat, playing in his first international men's tournament, finished sixth in individual play with a four-under 284, despite suffering from an unknown illness on the eve of the event.

SMC Media
Invitational
Volleyball
Tournament
PBA
00

SMC VOLLEY CHAMPS: San Miguel Corp. Advocacy Group manager Robert Non and Media Relations manager Jane Francisco award members of the PBA Press Corps with the championship medals and plaque for topping the SMC Media Invitational Volleyball Tournament championship last Sunday at the Meralco Gym.

Why Obet? Merk meets Mesa

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

OTHERS can dream of winning an Olympic medal. Others can win by aiming for it.

One can dream of winning, and that's not a bad idea. But it's always better if one aims at winning a medal.

Dreaming and aiming are worlds apart.

You dream, and chances are you won't realize your dream.

You aim, and you have fairly good chances of attaining what you aim for.

Chances. That should spell the difference between dreaming and aiming.

It's not bad to dream. It's how you go about your dream that matters.

It's different when you think of aiming, though. It gives you more reason to win.

Dreaming is like how you played the game. Not giving much on the winning aspect of competition.

Aiming is like you have got to win. At all costs. Aiming has the urgency of winning. Like soldiers, it's winning that makes you go to war. No quarters spared. No prisoners taken.

To dreamers, nothing is impossible. However, dreamers are romanticists. They don't mind losing, for as long as they feel they do their best when it's time to fight.

But to those aiming for a medal, everything is possible. They are realists. They mind losing, so that they will do everything to win. To them, winning is the only thing.

Did our 16 Olympians dream more than aim to win in Athens?

Since they all failed to win a medal, what does that make of them, dreamers or aimers?

You be the judge.

* * *

I had been wanting to ask this since the day he got appointed to his post: Why Obet Pagdanganan? I mean, why was Obet chosen chair of the Organizing Committee of the SEA Games that we are hosting next year?

Nothing personal, but I don't see any track record that will identify Obet to sports. I know he plays golf regularly and, almost, does not fail to join the annual Unilever Barkada Golf tournament handled ably by Chito Macapagal. But his sporting link ends there. Now, maybe if he were made project chief of golf by NGAP president Benny Gopez for the 2005 SEA Games, it would have made some sense; Obet's love for golf might translate into a slew of gold medals in golf next year.

But as chair of the 2005 SEA Games?

I don't know.

Look, he was Bulacan governor, all right. But running the affairs of a province is an entirely different world from running a Games event involving all Asean nations.

And, yes, why was he made Tourism czar from Agrarian Reform boss, only to be removed, again, and appointed SEA Games overseer? I mean, where's the logic there? Was he super good holding those two Cabinet portfolios that he could also produce wonders when named chair of the 2005 SEA Games?

I don't know.

But what I do know is, nothing much has happened at both departments that he had headed as to qualify Obet a superman. Otherwise, if he had done the contrary, GMA would have stuck to him like a leech.

You know, this government has a dearth of brilliant servants that shuffling Obet off from one position to another could only mean one thing: He is a favorite Palace toy, so indispensable that he can be flung anywhere and still come back like the ubiquitous Aussie boomerang.

Will you bet for Obet to run a third time (he lost twice already) for senator after the 2005 SEA Games?

Your guess is as good as mine.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Eddie Mesa has wowed the crowd at Merk's Place in an impromptu Elvis Presley act last week that Richard Merk is now seriously thinking of resurrecting the singing career of Eddie Mesa, still simply the undisputed Elvis Presley of the Philippines. It was a night that Merk's Place featured three Elvis Presley wannabes—Homer Mendoza, Alex Torres and Boy Sanchez—to celebrate the 50th year of Rock 'n' Roll. Everybody enjoyed the night, including Emil Kitane of Corinthian Gardens, famed film director Al Quinn and the Los Angeles-based Franklin Leonor of Calauag, Quezon. But of course, also a much-applauded, walk-in performer that night was none other than Ramon RJ Jacinto, who did Elvis, too, and next played the lead guitar nonpareil as Eddie Mesa belted his Elvis songs. It was, indeed, a night to remember. And as Richard Merk said, in paying tribute to Elvis, "Long Live the King!"

Italian bags final Olympic gold

Spectator attacks Brazil's erstwhile race leader in bizarre security breach

ATHENS, Greece—Stefano Baldini of Italy took the lead two miles from the finish to win the Olympic marathon gold medal Sunday in a race disrupted by a costumed intruder who grabbed a runner and pushed him into the crowd.

With three miles to go, Vanderlei de Lima of Brazil was clinging to a shrinking lead when he was shoved to the curb by a man dressed in green beret, red kilt and knee-high green socks. De Lima was able to get back into the race, but he lost several more seconds and ended up with bronze.

American Meb Keflezighi won a surprise silver.

De Lima drew big cheers from the crowd at the finish line in Panthinaiko Stadium—the beautiful marble structure that was the site of the first modern Olympics 108 years ago. He smiled broadly, spread his arms like wings and weaved from side to side as he crossed the line.

Later, he said the incident cost him the gold medal. But a protest filed by the Brazilian track federation asking that de Lima be given a duplicate gold was denied.

"When I saw the man who was jumping on me I was scared, because I didn't know what could happen to me, whether he was armed with a knife, a revolver or something and whether he was going to kill me," de Lima said.

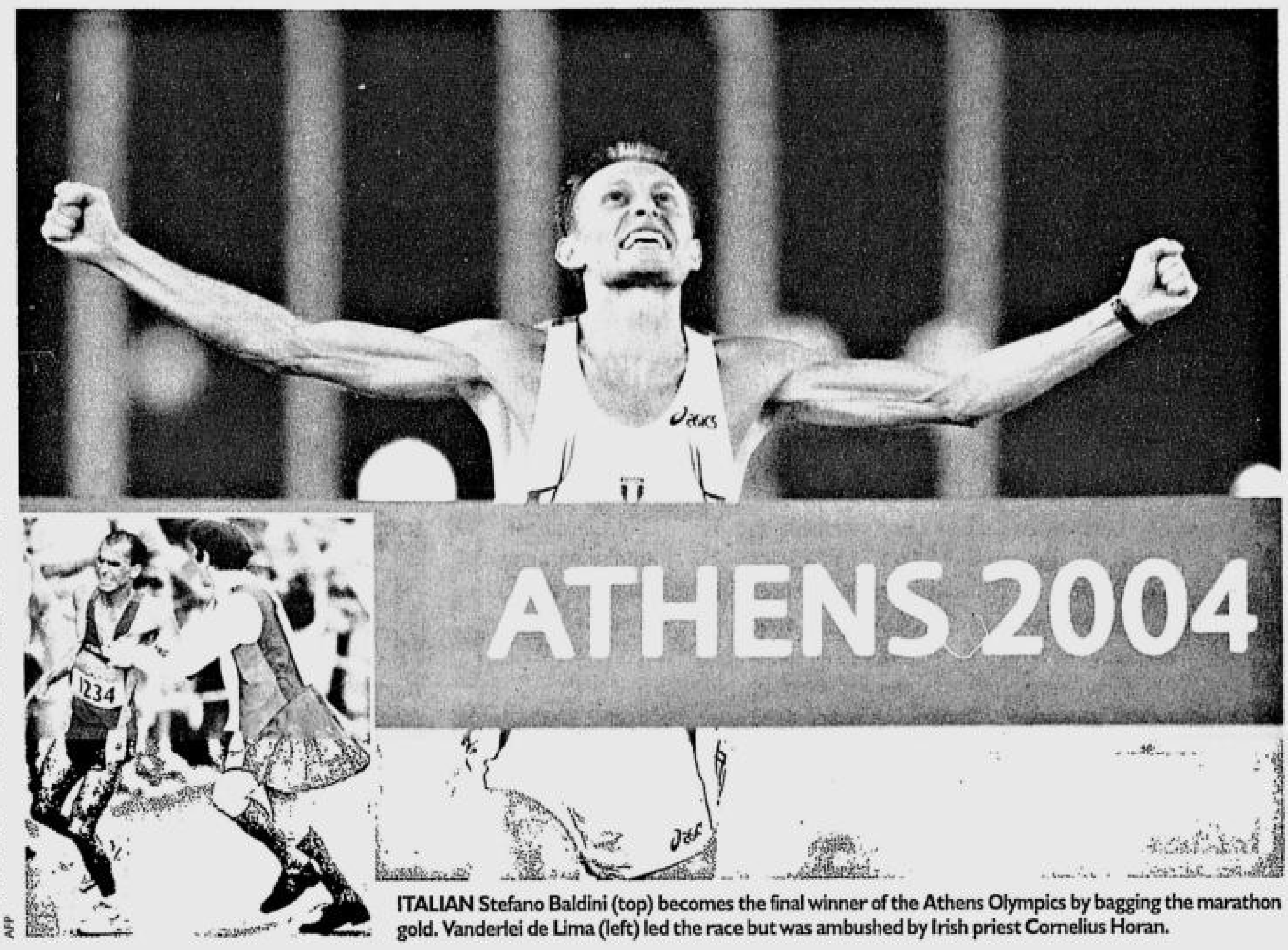
Baldini finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 54 seconds. He waved his hands in celebration, then dropped to his knees in exhaustion after his final lap on the narrow track inside the stadium. The 33-year-old Italian is the former European marathon champion and two-time world marathon silver medalist.

Keflezighi, the American record holder at 10,000 meters, ran a personal-best 2:11.29, 34 seconds behind the winner.

De Lima pulled away from the pack a little over halfway through the race, which traced the ancient route that gives the race its name.

As de Lima led the runners through the streets of Athens, the intruder struck. He came from de Lima's left and pushed him into the crowd. Police identified the culprit as ex-priest Cornelius Horan, who once strayed into a Grand Prix track and forced Formula One drivers running at high speeds to swerve around him.

The runners followed the steep, difficult course over which, legend says, Pheidippides carried the news in 490 B.C. that the Greeks had defeated the Persians in the Battle of Marathon. *AP*



ITALIAN Stefano Baldini (top) becomes the final winner of the Athens Olympics by bagging the marathon gold. Vanderlei de Lima (left) led the race but was ambushed by Irish priest Cornelius Horan.

Guidicelli, Stockinger rule at BRC

ROSARIO, Batangas—Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group survived a grueling battle with defending champion Michelle Bumgarner Sunday to top the Open class in the 2004 Shell-PCSO Superkarting Series' fourth leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Guidicelli finally pulled in front in the final lap and finished with a time of 40 minutes, 56.259 seconds. After posting the day's fastest lap time of 1:15.116, Bumgarner, last year's Karter of the Year awardee, wound up 0.103 seconds behind Guidicelli in the race sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

Allan Uy of Birel-Fila checked in third, 6.508 seconds adrift, with teammate Indy Villalon and Marlon Stockinger fourth and fifth, respectively.

Guidicelli wasn't as lucky in the Rotax Max Junior division as he lost to Stockinger, who put away his second straight win after topping the last race at Kart Track at Enchanted Kingdom.

Ayrton Cuesta timed 16:38.259 to rule the Cadet 60 class over Ton Joson. Rafael Benito topped the TRS-PIKA Kids Karting against rivals Juha Turalba and Javey Benitez.

Rookie Aljamal leads Lions past Stags

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—PCU vs San Beda (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua (Srs)
6 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE were no rookie jitters for freshman forward Yousif Aljamal as he scored eight of San Beda's 14 points in overtime to lead the Lions past the San Sebastian Stags, 94-86, and keep his team's Final Four bid alive in the 80th NCAA senior basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

"It was do-or-die for us. We had to win this to remain standing. Credit should go to the players for sticking to our system. Aljamal and (Arjun) Cordero stepped up because our small men were really tired from defending the shooters of San Sebastian," said coach Nash Racela after San Beda's third consecutive overtime game.

Mapua also remained in contention after walloping Jose Rizal, 76-53. San Beda, Mapua and San Sebatian all wound up tied for fourth at 7-6.

Aljamal finished with a game-high 19 points, while Cordero scored a double-double with 15 points—11 in the fourth period—and 10 rebounds.

The Lions got the upperhand in the final 30 seconds after Jerome Patérmo sank two freethrows, 80-78, but Red Vicente's layup in the last seven seconds put the game in overtime.

Mapua erected an 18-point lead at halftime, 43-25, and stretched it to 29 in the third quarter, 58-29. Erwin Sta. Maria topscored with 19 points.

San Beda secured a twice-to-beat edge in the junior Final Four after trouncing the Staglets, 88-71. The Light Bombers edged the Robins in overtime, 92-87.

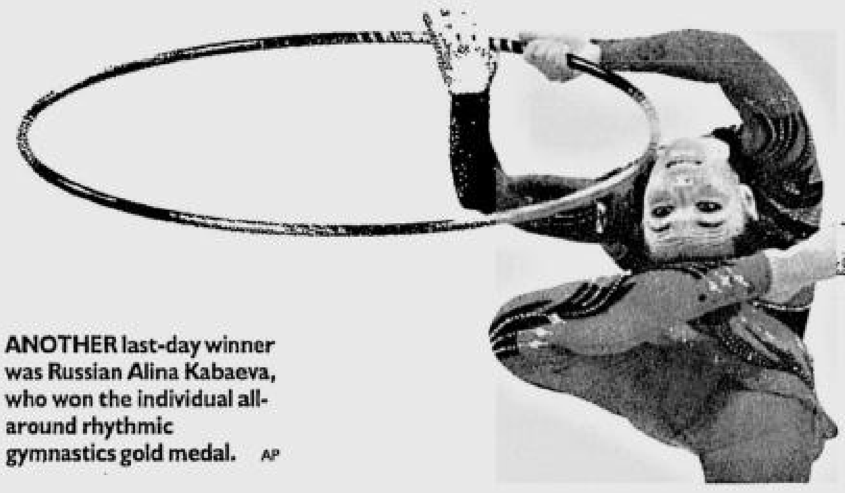
The scores:

Second game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 94—Aljamal 19, Cordero 15, Paterno 14, Bombeo 13, Angeles 10, Arbole 7, Weber 6, Timonera 4, Maggay 2, Bughao 2, Hudencial 2, Soriano 0, Cruz 0, Ong 0.

SSC 86—Najorda 18, Vicente 16, Maneclang 11, Uy 9, Gonzales 7, Rebuya 7, Aguilar 6, Baluyot 5, Moore 5, De Leon 2.

Quarters: 28-22, 47-44, 58-58, 80-80, 94-86.



ANOTHER last-day winner was Russian Alina Kabaeva, who won the individual all-around rhythmic gymnastics gold medal. AP

Albano, Canton hat tricks power Davao XI

DAVAO scored virtually from all angles to overwhelm Zamboanga, 11-0, while first-day loser Baguio bounced back by nipping favored Cebu, 1-0, yesterday in the PFF-SuperFerry National Women's Football Championship at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City.

Merlo Albano and Keith Shelley Canton came through with impressive hat tricks (three goals) for the Davaoeñas, who picked up their second straight win after crushing Iligan, 6-1, Sunday, and now lead Group B of the 10-team tournament for women 19 years and older.

The weeklong event is co-organized by the Philippine Football Federation and Marikina City Football Association and backed by the city government headed by Mayor Marides C. Fernando, who is also the MCFA chair.

Lomalyn Fama added two more goals for Davao, whose younger team lost to the National Capital Region in the under-19 finals two weeks ago.

Annika Hudson struck in the 60th minute for Baguio, which bowed 1-0 to Negros Oriental in the last match of a five-game bill on Sunday.

The Cebuanas also lost 4-0 to NCR in the tournament's opening match.

Davao now leads the tournament backed by adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express.

Iligan also evened its slate by pulling the rugs from under Negros Occidental, 1-0, behind Vanessa Mae Alcuida's 85th-minute strike.

Matches today pit Iligan against Zamboanga at 8 a.m. and NCR—bannered by a mix of players from De La Salle University and the University of the Philippines—versus Negros Oriental at 10.

Davao seeks its third win against Iloilo at 1 p.m. before Cebu battles debuting Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental at 3.

Hernandez strikes again in Mid-Amateur Open

LIPA CITY—Former Putra Cup champion Dave Hernandez closed out with a 73 Saturday to emerge surprise winner in the third Active Group Mid-Amateur Open at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club here.

Hernandez, in seventh place overnight after a 79, totaled 152 for a two-shot victory over Canlubang's Jose Mari Hechanova, who closed out with a 78 after a first-day 76.

Egay San Luis of Mount Malarayat grabbed third place with 77 (155) after emerging in a tie with defending champion Abe Rosal of Canlubang. Rosal, the first-day leader with a 72, ballooned to an 83 and settled for fourth after the countback.

Hernandez drove back to Calatagan where he works with the champion's trophy in the Open Division I, P12,000 in gift certificate from Pacsports Philippines, plus a one-year honorary membership at Mount Malarayat.

He also won the inaugural event Active Group chair Tony Turalba launched in 2001 for golfers 30 years and older.

Ramon Villareal of Mount Malarayat carded a second straight 86 to top Open II with 712, while Pitong Quiocho, also of Malarayat, fired an 80 (158) to rule Masters I. Willy Landayan of Canlubang Sugar Estate topped Masters II with a 93 (180) and Caloy Coscoluella of Alabang copped the Seniors I crown with an 84 (165).

Manila Polo Club fetes its top athletes

THE MANILA Polo Club celebrated the achievements of its best athletes in a glittering Grand Sports Awards Night and the inauguration of its six new badminton courts recently.

This year's club champions were Regine Katigbak and Anthony Cheng for badminton; Ale Muñoz (bowling), May Neri and Jorge Yulo (golf), Duane Santos (squash), Inday Bautista and W. Steven Uytengsu (swimming), Margo Flores and Derrick Santos (tennis), Vic Barba (riding school) and Hiro Suzuki (polo).

Roberto De Ocampo, MPC director-chair of the club's sports and games directorate, and Ambassador Isabel Wilson, corporate secretary and chair of the polo and equestrian directorate, awarded the club champions and the runners-up. They were assisted by the committee chairs.

The chairs and vice-chairs of the various sports committees were also given plaques of appreciation.

They were Don Felbaum (badminton), Isagani de Castro (bowling), Philip Mallari (golf), Iñigo Zobel (polo), David Reynolds (riding school), Duane Santos (squash), James Marsh Thomson (swimming) and Raymond Suarez (tennis).

RAMOS

UYTENGSU

Hosted by Studio 23 video jockey Tricia Chiongbian, the evening started with the inauguration and blessing of the new International Badminton Federation-rated courts.

Former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, also president of the Badminton Association of the Philippines, led the ribbon-cutting ceremonies together with Manila Polo Club directors and officers.

De Ocampo gave the welcome remarks while MPC president Roman Azanza Jr. delivered an inspirational talk.

Maritoni Tordesillas and her group from Danspace presented a ballet performance.

Past and present members of the national taekwondo team, headed by veteran internationalists Benjie Magsino and Monsour del Rosario, did a breathtaking demonstration.

The event was sponsored by Ford, Smart Infinity, Philippine Daily Inquirer and TaylorMade adidas. Supporters were Pharmaton, Volvo, Bench and Spurway Enterprises.

Biag, Alsado take Shell chess plums

IVAN Gil Biag pulled off a crucial win over Michael Adarlo in the penultimate round then drew his final match with Kim Yap Sunday to bag the Shell National Youth Active junior chess crown, even as Rodel Alsado coasted to victory in the kiddies division at Cyberzone at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Biag, a high school senior at the Philippine Christian University in Dasmariñas, Cavite, finished the 11-round tournament with 7.5 points in a tie with four others—Yap, Lyndon Sombilon, Melvin Palomata and Ellan Asuela—but clinched the title on a superior tiebreak score.

Biag wound up with 70 Bucholz points while Yap had 69 and Sombilon 64.5. Palomata and Asuela had 60.5 and 59, respectively.

The victory was worth P20,000 for the 18-year-old Biag, who placed second in the NCR eliminations racked up successive wins in the middle rounds.

Alsado, the 14-year-old find from Panabo City who ruled the Mindanao elims, won his first six matches to coast to the win in kiddies play. He drew with Revin Vasallo in the final round to finish with 8.5 points and claim the P10,000 prize.

Jester Andoy and Haridas Pascua scored 7.5 points each and won the second and third prizes worth P7,500 and P5,000, respectively.

Quezon City Rep. Mat Defensor, also president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, Grandmaster Eugene Torre and Pilipinas Shell officials led by GM for external affairs Roberto Kanapi, CEO Edgar Chua and vice president for corporate affairs Romy de Guzman awarded the prizes to the winners.

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12 STEPFORD'S WIVES

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6 THE VILLAGE
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 CINDERELLA STORY
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

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3 ELLA ENCHANTED
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1
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11:50 FS/12:20 MF/2:25/4:30/6:35/8:40/10:20 LFS/10:45 LMF/12:25 END

2
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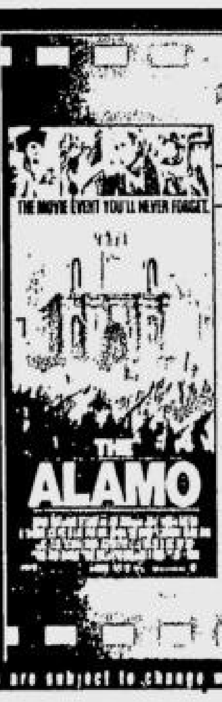
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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS: 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF : 9:50 pm
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF : 8:30 pm
3 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY
GP
4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS: 11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF : 8:55 pm

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS : 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF : 9:00 pm

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238

1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. DODGEBALL
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) DODGEBALL
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 DODGEBALL
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2 MAY PAG-IBIG PA

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) DODGEBALL
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 (GOLD DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 (GOLD DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 (GOLD SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 (GOLD DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 THUNDERBIRDS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 DODGEBALL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS ES) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 DODGEBALL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ARELLANO

Starmall Idol Search heats up

THE SEARCH for the next singing idol continued as the Star Idol Search held its first semifinal round last Sunday at Starmall Edsa.

Competing in the semifinal round were the nine winners in the seven weekly elimination rounds plus two wild card challengers. Six entries were picked to go to the last semifinal round on Sept. 4 at Starmall Las Piñas.

Out of the six, three finalists will ultimately vie for the coveted Star Idol crown at the grand finals to be held at the Trade Hall of Metropolis Star in Alabang on Sept. 19.

The nine semifinalists were Kelly Ellen Guanco, 15, from Biñan, Laguna; Marvin Salazar, 23, from Malabon; Paul Ruprecht, 15, from San Diego, California, USA; Carrol Gonzales, 21, from Pateros; Loverine Fermino, 18, from Navotas; Maribeth Arellano, 16, from Lipa City; Angela Ricablanca, 20, from Malvar, Batangas; and Rhea Cruz, 23, from Muntinlupa City.

Star Idol Search, a project of the Star Group of Malls, is an interactive singing competition patterned after the popular American TV show "American Idol."

RUPRECHT

GMA Fans...

From page A25

work's pool of talents.

The "GMA Grand Kapuso Fans Day & Fair" will feature colorful booths where fans can have their pictures taken with various GMA stars. The booths will include a KiliTV booth featuring a celebrity "wagwagan" of souvenir items from the stars of GMA sitcoms, a Telebabad booth with a life-size Mulawin standee for photo op, a musical booth for the "K! Caravan," a Talk & Variety booth with free Ricky Reyes styling, a Starstruck booth with the Starstruck teens and kids, an

GMA FANS/ A23

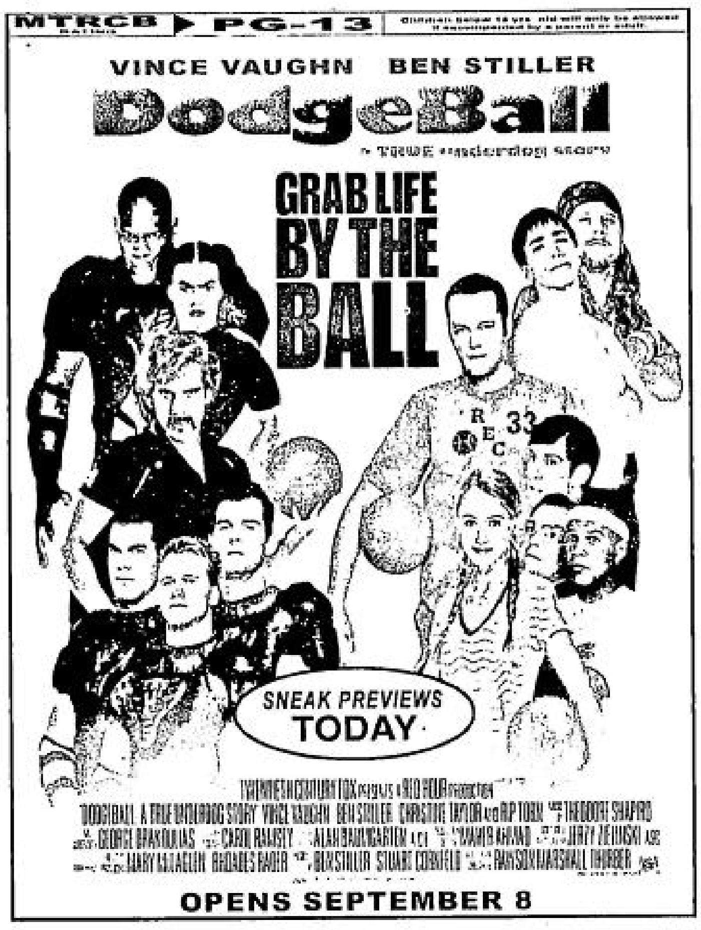
GMA Fans Day...

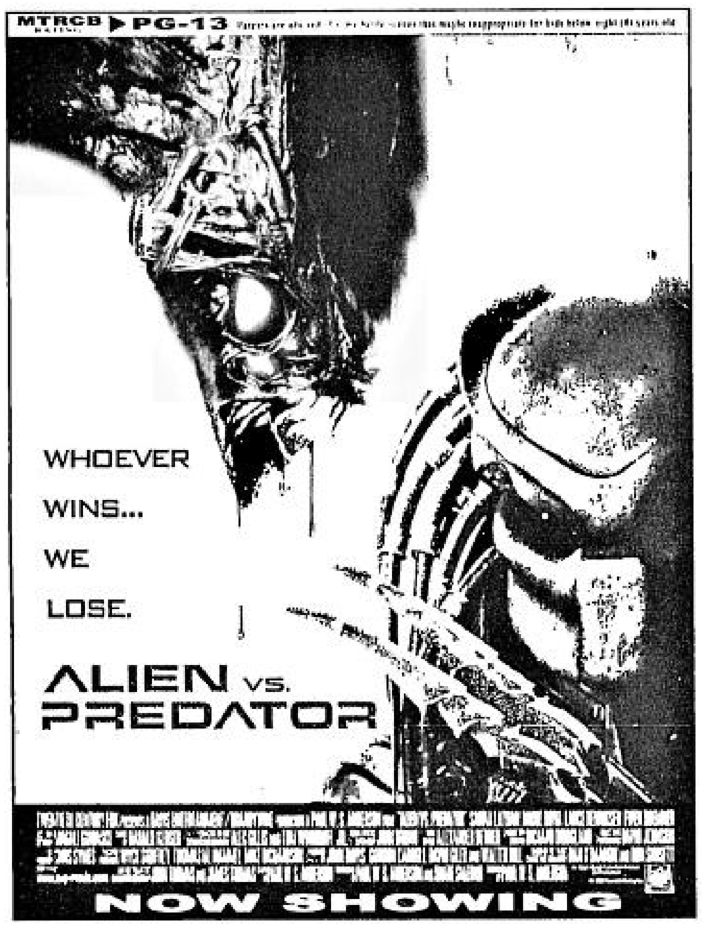
From page A22

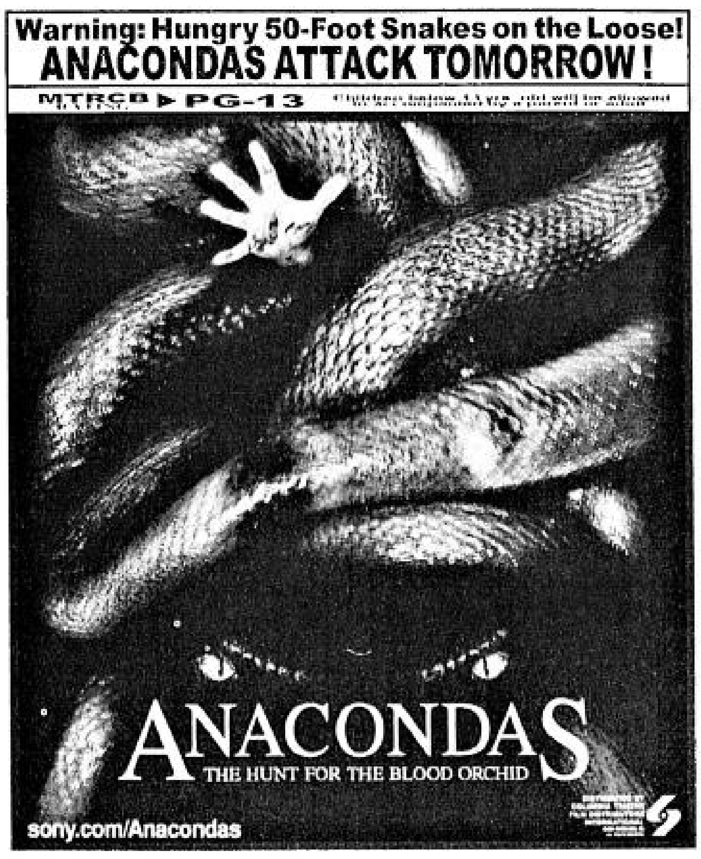
emergency booth for free basic medical services, 24 Oras/Extra Challenge/Unang Hirit booths with exciting activities.

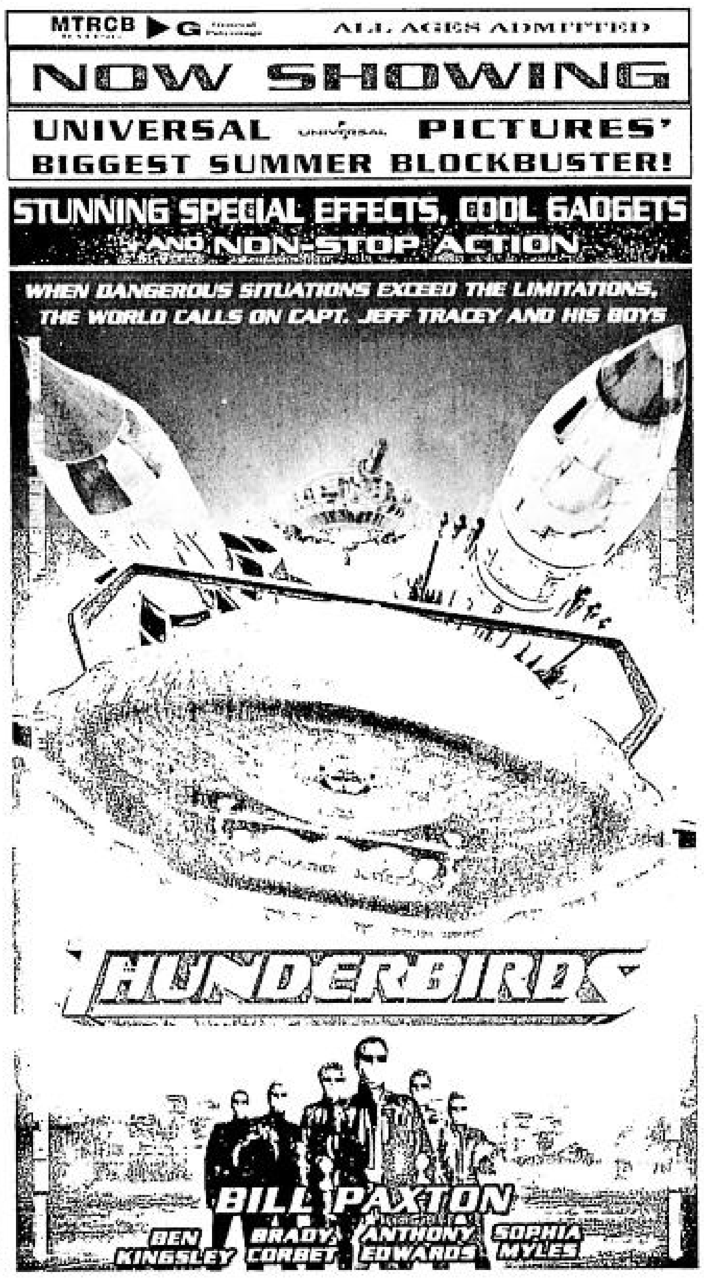
There will also be a special booth that will distribute registration forms for the next offering of GMA's phenomenal and pioneering reality-based *artista*-search, "Starstruck."

All the stars will be available at their respective booths for autograph signing and photo op with fans.


MTRCB PG-13
VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER
DodgeBall
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY
OPENS SEPTEMBER 8


MTRCB PG-13
WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
NOW SHOWING


Warning: Hungry 50-Foot Snakes on the Loose!
ANACONDAS ATTACK TOMORROW!
MTRCB PG-13
ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas


MTRCB G
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	**PRINCESS DIARIES - 2** 10:50 , 1:40 , 4:30 , 7:20 , 10:10 **GP**
CINEMA 2	**DODGEBALL** 10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20 , 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10 **P13**

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
AUGUST 31, 2004 NOAH'SBIGBOAT 10AM & 2PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	**ALIEN VS. PREDATOR** 11:45, 2:20, 4:55 7:30, 10:20 PG 13
2	**STEPFORD WIVES** 12:00, 2:10, 4:20 6:30, 8:40, 10:40 GP
3	**PRINCESS DIARIES 2** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:20 PG 13
4	**DODGE BALL** 11:50, 2:00, 4:10 6:20, 8:30, 10:40 GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALIEN VS. PREDATOR **PG13** 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	**PRINCESS DIARIES 2** **GP** 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00	**DODGEBALL** **PG-13** 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10
STEFORD WIVES **PG13** 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	**THUNDERBIRDS** **GP** 12:30,2:55, 5:20,7:45,10:10	**LAWS OF ATTRACTION** **PG13** 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ALIEN VS. PREDATOR (PG-13)
FS : 12:50 PM, 3:05 PM, 5:20 PM, 7:35 PM, LMF : 9:50 PM

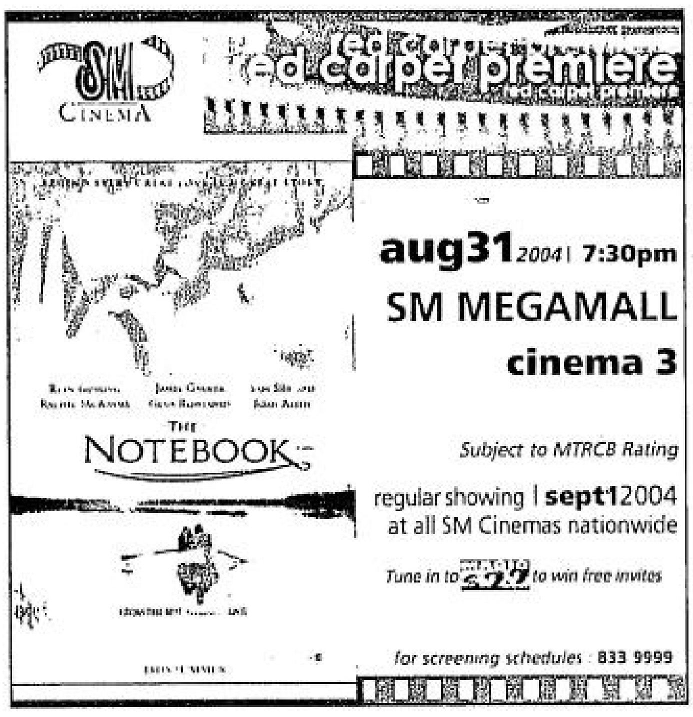
② PRINCESS DIARIES (GP)
FS 12:00 PM, 2:50 PM, 5:40 PM
LMF : 8:30 PM

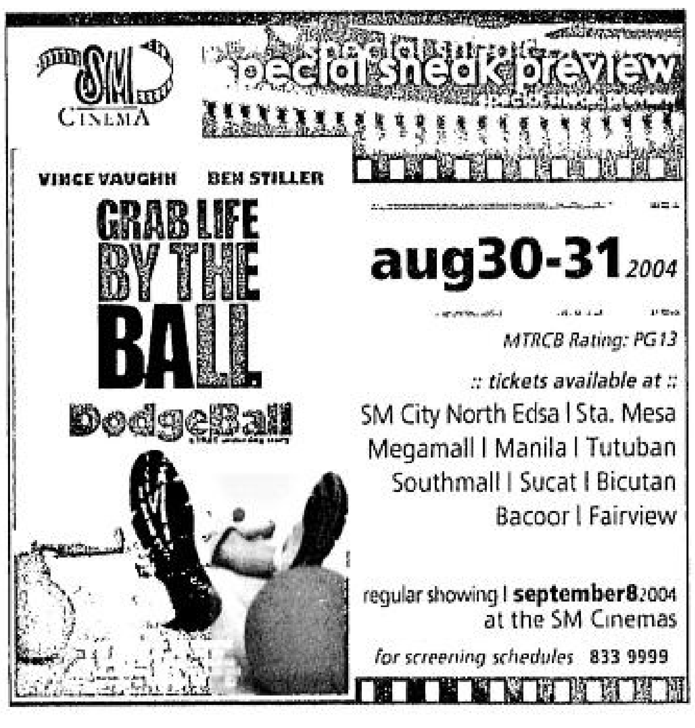
③ DODGEBALL (PG - 13)

④ THE STEPFORD WIVES (PG-13)
FS : 11:55 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:25 PM
6:40 PM, LMF : 8:55 PM

PREMIERE THEATRE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (GP)
FS 12:30 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:10 PM, 9:00 PM

For more information
please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza


SM CINEMA
red carpet premiere
THE NOTEBOOK
aug31 2004 | 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL
cinema 3
Subject to MTRCB Rating
regular showing | sept1 2004
at all SM Cinemas nationwide
Tune in to to win free invites
for screening schedules : 833 9999


SM CINEMA
special sneak preview
VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
DodgeBall
aug30-31 2004
MTRCB Rating: PG13
:: tickets available at ::
SM City North Edsa | Sta. Mesa
Megamall | Manila | Tutuban
Southmall | Sucat | Bicutan
Bacoor | Fairview
regular showing | september8 2004
at the SM Cinemas
for screening schedules 833 9999

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:55 am 1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS	ALIEN vs PREDATOR 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5	dts	THUNDERBIRDS 11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
6	Dolby	LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
7	Dolby	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 11	ATENEO vs FEU
Sep 12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP SEMIFINAL GAMES
Sep 23	UAAP GAME - FINALS
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

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KAYA MO BA 'TO?
"Two Thumbs Up!" ...Ebert & Roeper
"Funny and Outrageous" ...Owen Gleiberman - Entertainment Weekly
WINNER BEST DIRECTOR SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
US COMEDY ARTS FESTIVAL
SXSW FILM FESTIVAL
SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SUPER SIZE ME
Solar Entertainment Corporation

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Film	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4	THUNDERBIRDS	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	A CINDERELLA STORY	11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
8	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
9	THE STEPFORD WIVES	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
10	THE VILLAGE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Film	Times
1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
2	JANDARA	10.40, 12.55, 3.10, 5.25, 7.40, 9:50
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10.10, 12:30, 2.50, 5:10, 7:30, 9.50
4	THE STEPFORD WIVES	10:20, 12.05, 2.00, 3.55, 5.00, 7.45, 9.40
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9.55
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:30, 12.45, 3:00, 5:15, 7.30, 9:50
7	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1:30, 3.50, 6 10, 8 20, 10 00

METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Film	Times
1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 9.55
4	THE VILLAGE	10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:55, 2.35, 5.15, 7:55, 10:30
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 8.45, 10:30
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9.00
8	HAMOG	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00

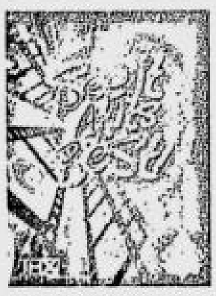
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Film	Times
1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
3	THUNDERBIRDS	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8.30
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.15, 12 45, 3:15, 5:45, 8.30
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11.20, 1:30, 3 40, 5.50, 8.00
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11.00, 1:20, 3:40, 6 00, 8.30
7	HAMOG	10:15, 12.25, 2.35, 4:45, 6:55, 9.00
8	THE VILLAGE	11.20, 1.40, 4.00, 6.20, 8.40

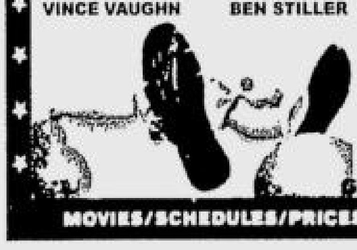
Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 HAMOG	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 HAMOG	3 MANO-MANO 3
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
		5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 GARFIELD	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 MAKAMUNDO
3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 MAKAMUNDO	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE	5 THE CURSE	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 THE VILLAGE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 GARFIELD	2 GARFIELD
3 HAMOG	3 THE VILLAGE	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 DEAD PEOPLE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	6 MAKAMUNDO	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD



VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER

DodgeBall
a TRUE underdog story

SNEAK PREVIEW

August 30 to 31
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
Galleria Ermita Metro East Novaliches Lipa

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

See'eMall!

AYALACENTER · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU

AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
LAGUNA EXPO August 25 to 31, 2004	OLYMPIC WORLD SALE August 30 to September 12, 2004	MT. SINAI SCHOOL EVENT August 31, 1:00 to 4.00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

Greenbelt 2	Greenbelt 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) featuring Jayrie & Honey (Thu) Kitchie Nadal (Fri) Acoustic Jive (Sat)	MERK'S HAPPY HOUR: Romy Posadas Main Feature: Acousitc Jive

Onstage — Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO
August 7 to December 12

EXPO — TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!
For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

AYALA CINEMAS

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THUNDERBIRDS	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR		GUARANTEED SEATS PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 40, 4 05, 6 30 8 55, 11 20	THUNDERBIRDS
2	THE VILLAGE	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	THE STEPFORD WIVES		GUARANTEED SEATS THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 05, 3 10	THE VILLAGE
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS LAWS OF ATTRACTION [illegible]		GUARANTEED SEATS DODGEBALL 1 10, 3 10, 5 10, 7 10, 9 10, 11 10	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	DODGEBALL	THUNDERBIRDS		GUARANTEED SEATS ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	DIRTY DANCING 2
5	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR		DODGEBALL		GUARANTEED SEATS LAWS OF ATTRACTION 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6			PRINCESS DIARIES 2			
7			THE VILLAGE			

GB1 GREENBELT 1	Film	Times
1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11 30, 1 35, 3 40, 5 45, 7 50, 9 55
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12 15, 2 40, 5 05, 7 30, 9 55

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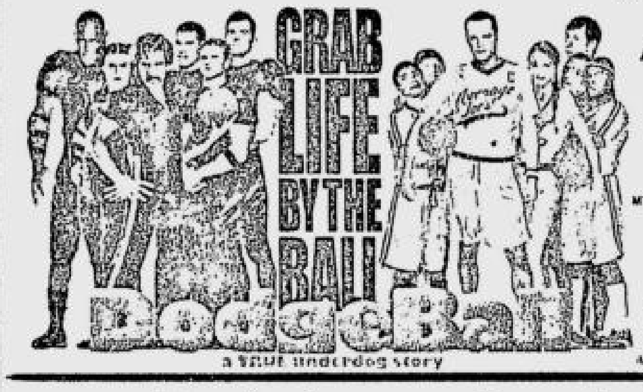

August 30 & 31

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GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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AYALA CENTER
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AYALA MALLS
LoveMall!

Tarantino appears with the Muppets

LOS ANGELES—Blood-and-guts director Quentin Tarantino may be going soft. The "Kill Bill" and "Pulp Fiction" director will make a cameo appearance in a new ABC-TV movie featuring the Muppets and based on the classic tale "The Wizard of Oz," ABC announced Thursday.

The film, with the working title "The Muppets' Wonderful Wizard of Oz," begins production in Vancouver, British Columbia, next month and airs on "The Wonderful World of Disney."

Tarantino's role as himself is likely to be overshadowed by pop star Ashanti, starring as Dorothy, and Miss Piggy. The muppet will play three wicked witches and Glinda, Good Witch of the South.

Kermit the Frog is the Scarecrow, the Great Gonzo is the Tin Man and Fozzie Bear is the Lion. Actress-singer Queen Latifah plays Auntie Em.

The project is based on Frank L. Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Judy Garland played Dorothy in the famed 1939 film version. Diana Ross starred in 1978's "The Wiz." *AP*

Birth of Cesar...

From page A26

an acoustic touch. They are also looking for a new location (preferably still in Tagaytay) for Freddie's folkhouse/pub, Ka Freddie's.

The highlight of the night at Virgin Café was Freddie and Maegan's duet of his signature hit, "Anak." Listening to their soulful rendition gave me goose bumps. It made me miss my mom and the way she blazed the trail for me.

Korina's surprise

THE STUDIO audience and the staff of ABS-CBN's new youth debate show, "Y Speak," all got so giddy when **Korina Sanchez** popped up to surprise Sen. **Mar Roxas**, a guest judge in the show.

The fearless broadcast journalist in Korina softens up when it comes to matters of the heart. I remember her telling me once, "When you're in love, everyday with your boyfriend is memorable. Not just the first date."

She even shared in my girlish joys when she gamely agreed to help me surprise an ex-boyfriend of mine (who was her No. 1 fan) by joining us for lunch. That's how much of a true-blue romantic Korina is.

"Y Speak" will be shown every Wednesday starting Sept. 8.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Heartening developments

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER "Imelda," the next controversial documentary to show in town is maverick filmmaker **Michael Moore's** "Fahrenheit 9-11."

The full-length docu criticizes US President **George W. Bush's** handling of the States' terrorist crisis, especially the 9-11 attacks.

It has been criticized for being too subjective against Bush. On the other hand, the production has been praised for blowing the lid off some officials' ineptitude, which in Moore's view exacerbates the threat and lethal effects on Americans' collective lives.

Well, now we have a chance to view the documentary and decide for ourselves.

Due to the controversy surrounding it, and the vital importance of its topic, "Fahrenheit 9-11" has become the most-viewed documentary of all time, pulling in more than $100 million at the box office.

That amount is what the US movie industry uses as a touchstone for a hit feature film.

For a documentary to be right up there with the big story movies is an amazing achievement, and we hope other film documentarists are heartened by what Moore's movie has achieved.

New studios

ANOTHER heartening development, this time for Asian movie people, is the decision of a Hollywood studio to invest US $75 million in new studios in Thailand.

The main studio is expected to be completed in 10 months, after which a film academy and animation complex will be set up.

The Hollywood outfit, Studios Int'l, plans to make some feature films and TV series at the new complex in Thailand. Our hope is that it will also be made available to Asian filmmakers who want to make movies that can break into the international film market.

Thailand's Board of Investment has come up with incentives for new movie studios, like tax waivers and tariff exemptions. Could we learn from this, and do the same thing here?

> Only some 100 were expected to join the full-length film contest, but it has received 190 entries

190 entries

A THIRD upbeat development is the fact that the new Cinemalaya tilt's full-length film competition has received 190 entries. Only some 100 were expected to join, so this bumper crop of feature synopses augurs well not just for the Cinemalaya initiative but for Filipino films in general.

It indicates that there are many first-time filmmakers out there who want to break into mainstream movies. We trust that some of their concepts are outstanding, and, once filmed, will make a significant contribution to the local film scene.

We also trust that our viewers will support these new cinematic initiative with their judicious and enthusiastic patronage.

The next step will be to whittle down the 190 entries to the most promising 20, then trim some more to the final 10, which will be filmed and then screened at the festival, which is set to unreel in February 2005.

Cartoon Network leads

CARTOON Network Philippines reached 93 percent of cable kids in the second quarter of 2004, and has led cable networks for 10 quarters in a row. For the morning time band, afternoon time band, and kids' prime time band (4-8 p.m.), Cartoon Network ranked first on cable, and third across all channels, after ABS-CBN and GMA.

The network also attracts housewives, teens and young adults. In terms of ratings, it even outranked other general entertainment channels on cable.

Stunts like Mother's Day Kiss Alert and programming blocks like Toon-so-log, Freaky Friday, Brain Power Hour and Toonami similarly clicked with viewers.

Cinema One

VIEWING highlights on Cinema One in September: On Sunday Cine Premiere, Sept. 5, "Hari ng Selda" with **Robin Padilla**. Sept. 12, "Dito sa Puso Ko" with **Judy Ann Santos**. Sept. 19, "My First Romance" with **John Prats, Heart Evangelista, John Lloyd Cruz** and **Bea Alonzo**. Sept. 28, "Sumigaw Ka Hanggang Gusto Mo" with **Eric Quizon** and **Carmina Villaroel**.

On Sabado Super Sine: Sept. 4, "Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan" with **Christopher de Leon** and **Hilda Koronel**. Sept. 11, "Hati Tayo sa Magdamag" with **Edu Manzano**. Sept. 18, "Working Girls, Part 2." Sept. 25, "Matalino Man ang Matsing" with **Eddie Garcia**.

'The Swan'

LAST Friday at 8 p.m. on Studio 23, the newest reality show, "The Swan," launched its competition for 18 women who will be transformed from "ugly ducklings" to the best possible versions of themselves.

The transformation will take three months, and is courtesy of teams of life specialists who will effect the "magical" makeover.

They include plastic surgeons, hair stylists, life coaches, therapists, trainers, and nutritional and psychological specialists.

The final "Swan" challenge? A real beauty pageant!

Be the FIRST to experience One of the BEST CINEMAS– the NEW Robinsons Movieworld ANGELES
Opens SEPTEMBER

Dawn gets ready to sing

From page A26

it. Inside each tree was a votive candle. I want to go back to doing that again."

The beaded Christmas trees, like her cookies, soap bars and jewelry, were bestsellers, making her the Queen of Bazaars in the South.

Beautification

Dawn prefers to keep herself busy in "laidback and un-harried" Davao. To complement her bazaar activities, she is also actively promoting Davao as a tourist destination. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Davao Beautiful Foundation (DBF).

"We are involved in beautification projects for Davao City," she explains.

Her work with DBF led her to another worthwhile project, the Violence Against Women and the Bathaluman Crisis Center.

"My *Tita* Margie Moran-Floirendo, who is helping DBF, invited me to join them," Dawn relates. The former Miss Universe is married to an uncle of Dawn's husband, Anton Lagdameo.

Dawn hopes to be more actively engaged in the projects of other noteworthy groups in Davao like Bantay Bata and Habitat.

Her volunteer work brings fulfillment and is like therapy for her, for she confesses she "can be very pessimistic and easily discouraged."

Working closely with the less fortunate and the down-trodden gives Dawn a renewed sense of hope (for the country) and gratitude (for her own personal blessings). "I give a part of myself to them, but I'm the one who's getting more out of the encounter," she says.

ZULUETA

"They remind me that I should stop complaining about petty things because they are coping and surviving and they have bigger, more serious problems," she adds.

"That's why I keep going back to them. They keep me grounded."

Dawn also found the time to reinvent herself as a columnist/contributor to the new quarterly magazine Metro Society. "I'll be covering Davao events, which I also enjoy," she says.

Dawn has also become a regular fixture in the Davao social scene, "especially since my husband and his friends put up the 183 Rizal Café in downtown Davao."

"They are opening a new restaurant in the same promenade area soon," she says.

Even as her life in Davao is booming and blooming, Dawn is still raring to return to her original passion: performing.

Last year, she hosted the GMA 7 lifestyle show "All About You" and acted in "Filipinas," an entry in the Manila Film Festival, and in the IBC-13 mini-series "The Lito Atienza Story."

Both movie and series were produced by Dawn's discoverer, Viva Films.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 8
"SCARY AS HELL" THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?
GODSEND
GREG KINNEAR
ROBERT DE NIRO
REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS

Classical, acoustic music from Lester and Cynthia

LESTER Demetillo and Cynthia Ubaldo

MASTER classical guitarist Lester Demetillo teams up with vocalist Cynthia Ubaldo to bring fine acoustic music to lovers of Italian cuisine at Amoroma Ristorante Italiano every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Their repertoire comes from the 1960s to the 1980s including the smash hits of John Denver, The Beatles, Jim Croce, Peter, Paul and Mary, and others. The duo lends a more contemporary arrangement to their songs to appeal to both the young and old.

Demetillo also performs the music of J.S. Bach, Tarrega, Sor, Filipino *kundiman* and other guitar compositions.

Show starts at 7 p.m.

Amoroma Ristorante Italiano is at Valuepoint Condominium, 227 Salcedo corner Gamboa Streets, Legazpi Village, Makati City.

For inquiries and reservations, call 818-0209.

GMA Fans Day and Fair at FAT

GMA Network will gather its brightest stars in a grand event that is every fan's dream come true. The network is giving a day-long, free-for-all treat in which fans will get to meet and mingle with their favorite Kapuso stars.

Dubbed as the "GMA Grand Kapuso Fans Day & Fair," the big event will be held at the Folk Arts Theater on Sunday, Sept. 5.

Fans will be able to watch the live presentation of "SOP Gigster" at the Folk Arts Theater. They will also be treated to a full day of entertainment and encounters with practically all the stars in the net-

GMA FANS/ A22

Life is waiting.
Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
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OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

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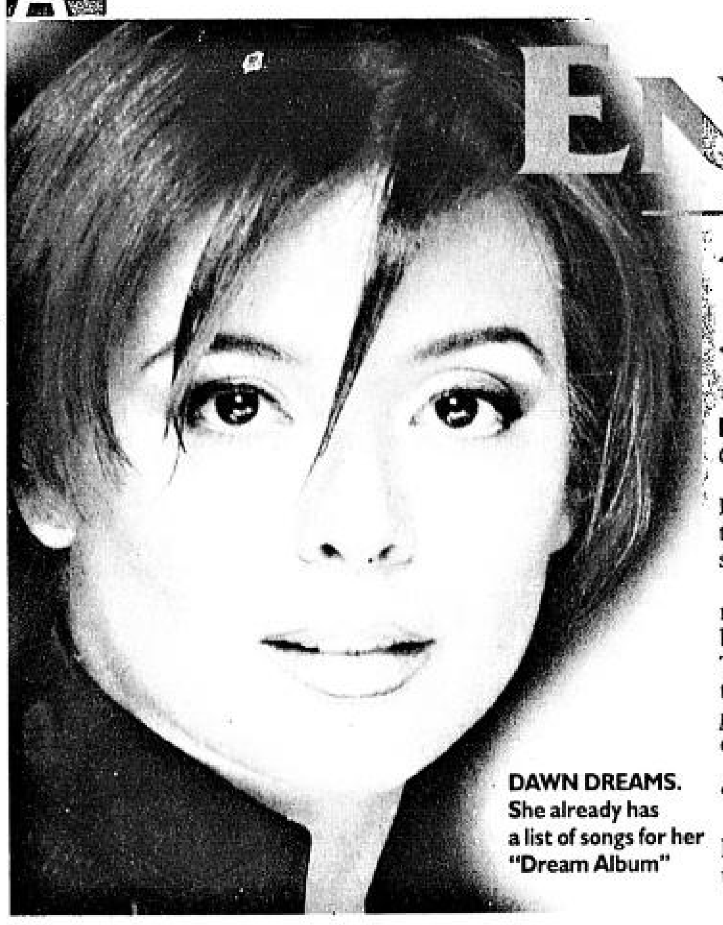


DAWN DREAMS. She already has a list of songs for her "Dream Album"

Dawn gets ready to Sing

By Bayani San Diego
Contributor

DAWN ZULUETA admits that she wants to try doing a soap opera. But more than this, she dreams of becoming a singer.

"I have this little notebook that I carry with me everywhere," Dawn says. "Whenever a bright idea comes to mind, I write it down. The notebooks has my to-do list, my chores, the addresses of shops I want to visit, a list of *pasalubong*. Anything and everything, I write down there."

One page of the notebook has the headline "My Dream Album."

Music is on Dawn's list. "I'm really a music lover," she says. "I have an extensive collection of CDs at home."

She says that if she ever becomes a recording artist, she plans to sing her all-time favorites, songs by Nina Simone, Sergio Mendes, Lani Hall, Burt Bacharach, and the like.

"Two of the songs in my Dream Album list are 'One Less Bell to Answer' and 'Love is Far Stronger Than We,'" she reveals.

Even when she also admits to a "terrible stage fright," Dawn vows to give the same commitment to excellence and the same passion to music that she has always given to acting as well as to her family, her charity work and her businesses.

Back to beading

Passion is always burning in Dawn even when, as Mrs. Anton Lagdameo, she is supposed to be in semi-retirement in idyllic Davao down South.

Dawn has remained busy even away from the spotlight. Her days are always packed and fulfilling, whether she is keeping house in Davao or running errands in Manila.

These days, Dawn is preparing for her annual participation in the Davao Christmas Bazaar.

"I'm in the development stage," she says. "I'm sourcing materials. I'm planning to go to Laguna and visit different towns to scout for new products."

In Christmases past, she hit the bazaar jackpot with her homemade cookies, handmade aromatherapy soap bars, and beaded Christmas trees.

"I want to go back to beading," she says. "Before, I just had the wrought iron frame made, painted it in gold or silver, and beaded

DAWN/ A25

Birth of Cesar and Sunshine's baby a scene like no other

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

CESAR **Montano** and **Sunshine Cruz** are ecstatic about their new baby girl, **Samantha Angelene**.

Sam was born Aug. 24 and weighed 6.8 lb. Shine gushed, "Our baby looks like Cesar but she got my color. So you can say that she's Buboy's white female version."

The beaming dad was inside the delivery room the whole time to document the birth on film.

"I have directed movies," said Cesar, "but looking through the lens while Sam was coming out was a scene like no other. I could feel Shine's pain and at the same time I was nervous but happy. It's an inexplicable feeling."

Their firstborn, **Samantha Isabelle**, who's turning 3 years old, is a bit jealous of her new sister, but Shine and Buboy reassure her that they don't love her any less. Shine wants to take a break from having babies for the meantime but Buboy wants to have four more as soon as possible!

Their teamwork in producing and directing films for their own production outfit works well but it's their "masterpieces" as daddy and mommy that they are most proud of.

Andrea's love

ANDREA del Rosario is happily in love with her French boyfriend, but at this point she's not ready to tie the knot yet.

"Though he has brought me to France to meet his parents and family, we have no marriage plans at the moment," said Andrea. "We are both secure in our relationship. We broke up for a year and that taught us a lot about each other. So now that we are back together, we're keeping things cool."

Her beau will soon be based in Singapore but the long-distance set-up does not bother Andrea at all. "As long as we trust each other there's nothing to worry about," she said. "It's exciting that we miss each other."

Aside from her boyfriend, Andrea's biggest passion is belly dancing. "**Regine Tolentino** and I are coming up with an instructional video on belly dancing. It can get boring to go to the gym. A better way to exercise is to belly-dance. It really gives you curves in the right places."

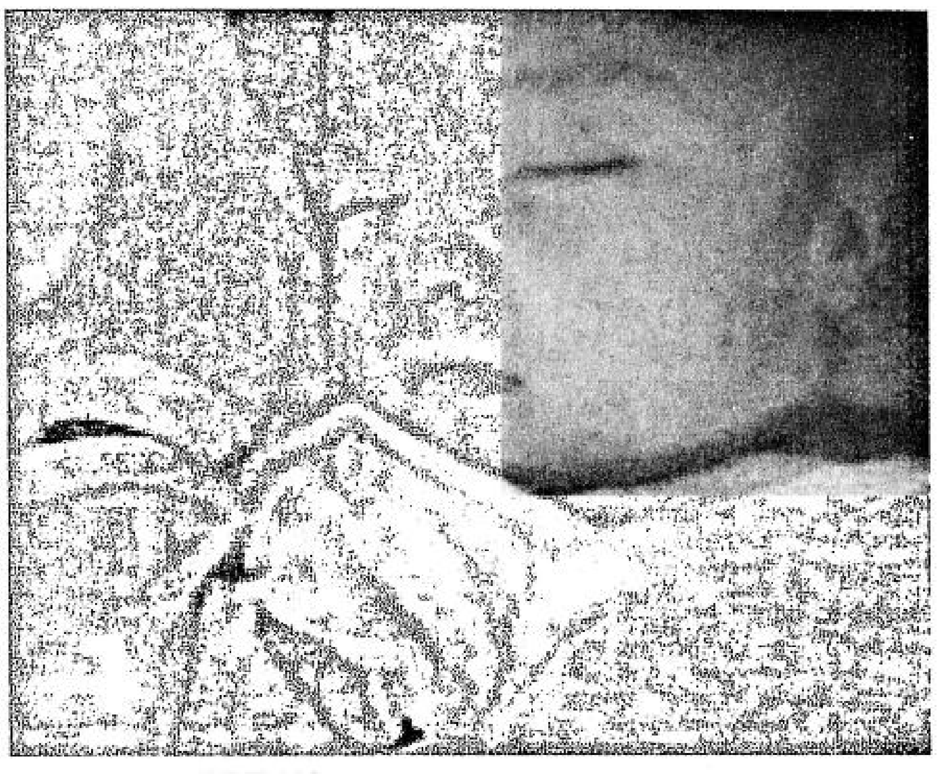
Freddie's girl

FREDDIE Aguilar was the picture of a doting father when he watched his daughter, **Maegan**, perform with her band, Flower Child, at the newly renovated Virgin Café on Tomas Morato.

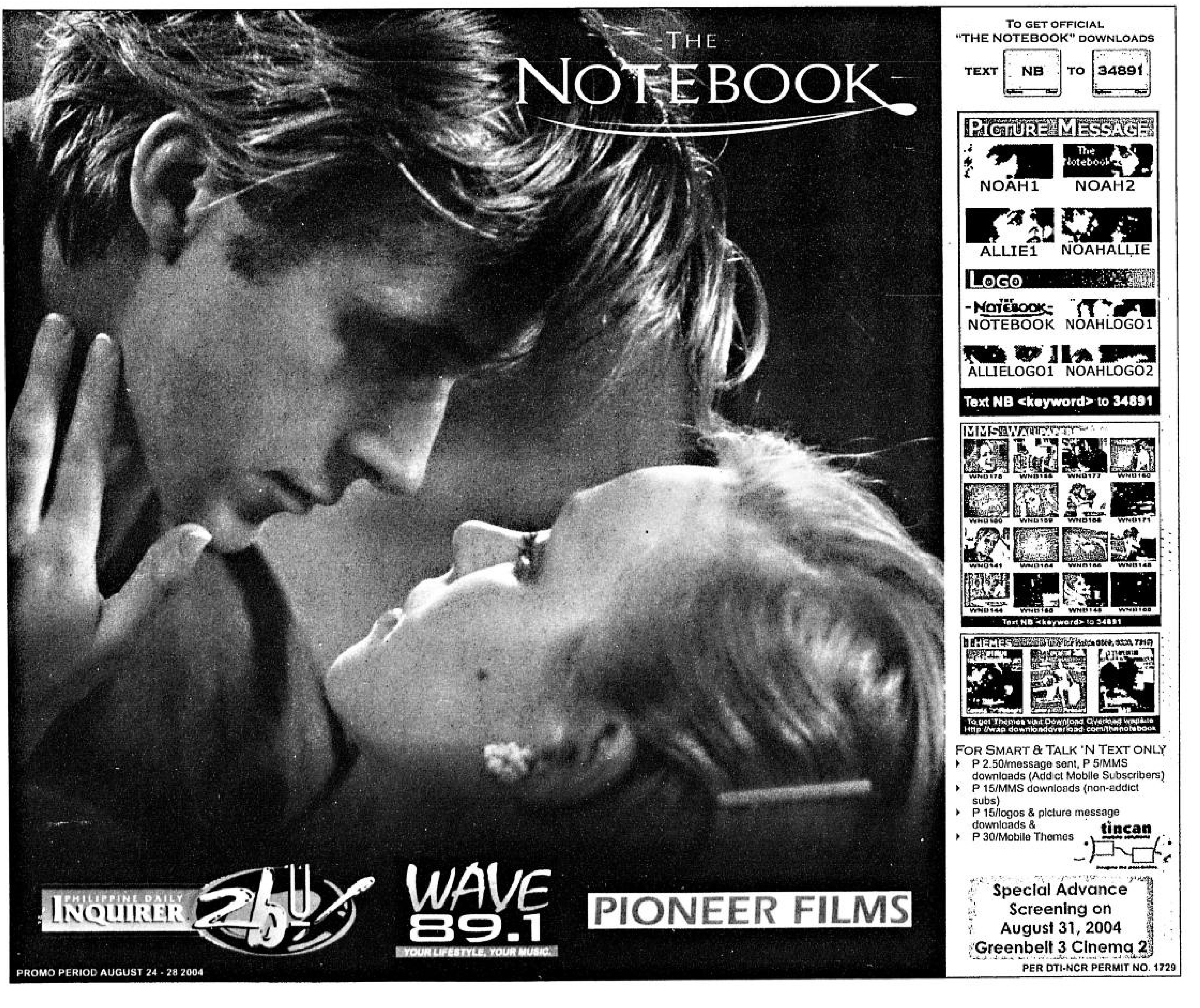
"When I'm free I make sure to catch Maegan's gigs," said Freddie. "I give her pointers but she's got a style all her own. I can't play the K-hon the way she does. It's the guitar that has always been my forte."

Sonny Parsons, formerly of the Hagibis, was with Freddie that night. He told me he and Freddie are reviving all of the Hagibis songs but with

BIRTH/ A24



SAMANTHA ANGELENE, 6.8 lb



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FirstPac wants bigger stake in Skyway firm

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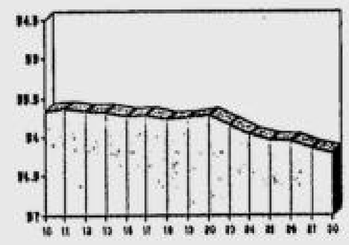


P 56.21 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2004

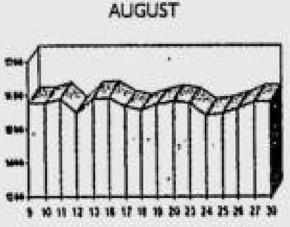
¥ 110.32 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2004

GOLD: $404.30-404.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 31, 2004

August 30, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.832223702	1.000000	56.1280
Japan	Yen	0.007591	0.009121	0.5119
United Kingdom	Pound	1.49018	1.790600	100.5028
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106699	0.128210	7.1962
Switzerland	Franc	0.648857	0.779666	43.7611
Canada	Dollar	0.634317	0.762195	42.7805
Singapore	Dollar	0.486481	0.584556	32.8100
Australia	Dollar	0.586238	0.704424	39.5379
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.207548	2.652590	148.8846
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221921	0.266660	14.9671
Brunei	Dollar	0.485063	0.582852	32.7143
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000107	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.02002	0.024056	1.3502
UAE	Dirham	0.226585	0.272264	15.2816
Euro	Euro	1	1.201600	67.4434
Argentina	Peso	0.276486	0.332226	18.6472
Brazil	REAL	0.281918	0.338753	19.0135
Denmark	Kroner	0.134457	0.161564	9.0683
India	Rupee	0.017986	0.021612	1.2130
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219035	0.263193	14.7725
Mexico	New Peso	0.073066	0.087796	4.9278
New Zealand	Dollar	0.544186	0.653894	36.7018
Norway	Kroner	0.119643	0.143763	8.0691
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014178	0.017036	0.9562
South Africa	Rand	0.123906	0.148885	8.3566
Korea	Won	0.000723	0.000869	0.0488
Sweden	Kroner	0.109652	0.131758	7.3953
Syria	Pound	0.016157	0.019414	1.0897
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024535	0.029481	1.6547
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000434	0.000522	0.0293

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on profit-taking



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.10 percent lower yesterday as investors took profits on recent gains while selected blue chips and smaller companies attracted support, dealers said.

The market shrugged off forecast-beating economic growth of 6.2 percent for the three months to June due to concerns over the outlook for the second half amid high oil prices and inflationary pressures that may force the central bank to raise key interest rates.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 1.63 points to 1,580.41 after trading between 1,577.99 and 1,585.24.

Turnover was 1.08 billion shares worth P400.03 million compared to 778.59 million shares worth P619.55 million Friday.

Gainers led losers 40 to 32, while 39 stocks were unchanged.

The all-shares index was down 4.74 points at 1,012.89, the commercial-industrial index rose 0.70 to 2,527.05, property advanced 3.57 to 520.68, mining fell 51.90 to 1,746.17, oil eased 0.02 to 1.65 and banking and financial services shed 3.46 to 456.31.

"We don't expect growth in the third quarter to be as high as that in the second quarter, which was also boosted by the one-off factor of election-related spending," said Accord Capital Equities analyst Lawrence de Leon.

"Still, we are not ruling out a delayed positive reaction from investors to the second-quarter growth, which boosts the government's chances of meeting its full-year growth target of 4.9-5.8 percent." **AFP**

By Clarissa S. Batino

HONG KONG—First Pacific Co. Ltd wants to increase its stake in the Indonesian-controlled company that operates the Skyway in Manila so it could help raise at least P12.5 billion for the upgrade and integration of the South Luzon Expressway (Slex) all the way to Batangas port.

"We would like this to be a joint venture between ourselves and the Indonesian firm," said First Pacific managing director and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan.

The 9.3-kilometer Skyway or elevated highway running from Magallanes to Bicutan is a joint venture of state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. and Indonesian firm P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada through Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp.

Metro Pacific Corp., a Philippine subsidiary of First Pacific, currently owns 10 percent in Citra Metro Manila through Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc.

Pangilinan said the South Luzon highway project would entail three major capital expenditure items. He said that P10 billion would be needed to connect the major arterial highways from Alabang to Calamba and Calamba to Sta. Rosa.

Another P2.5 billion will be spent for the integration of Lipa to the Batangas port, according to the First Pacific executive. And a still unidentified amount would be needed to upgrade the existing Skyway and Slex.

Of the required financing, 70 percent would come from loans and official development assistance while 30 percent would be funded by equity from Citra and First Pacific.

Pangilinan said First Pacific had its first board meeting on the project with Citra last week. It was during this meeting that a stronger role for First Pacific through Metro Pacific was raised.

Metro Pacific president Jose Ma. Lim was appointed as chief operating officer of Citra Metro Manila during last week's board meeting.

PANGILINAN

"Metro Pacific will take a more active role in the project. This will give us more equity participation. We are also looking for new capital for the project as well as (working on a) debt restructuring," Pangilinan said.

The group, according to the First Pacific chief, has hired Japanese consultants to gain access to Japan's ODA.

"You have to have a total business plan to make it work. You can't just approach the project like salami where you slice everything up," he said.

The First Pacific official said it would present to the Citra board in the next few weeks the other details of the proposed project.

Pangilinan said the rehabilitation of the Slex and its integration with the contiguous road development like the Skyway and Star Highway was included in the Macapagal administration's priority infrastructure program.

The 30-kilometer Slex spanning Alabang to Calamba in Laguna is in urgent need of rehabilitation.

Estimates of the state-owned PNCC placed repair and improvement of the Slex at more than P1 billion while its link-up to the Star express in Cavite would cost about P4 billion.

The trade department had proposed the creation of a P200-billion Philippine Infrastructure Corp. to fast-track the improvement of roads and other facilities needed to attract more investors.

Peza chief sues Cebu firm execs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEAD of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority yesterday filed a libel suit against officials of a garment firm who accused her of extorting P2 million in exchange for the firm's continued operation.

Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said in an interview she wanted Pearl City Garment Inc.'s plant manager Franklin U. Ty and five others to be jailed for their attack against her reputation.

Because of this, Ty is now facing a total of four counts of libel before the the Office of the City Prosecutor in Pasay City.

"We should not allow criminal elements like well-funded smugglers to indiscriminately malign hard-earned reputations,". De Lima said.

The dispute arose when Peza revoked last July 13 Pearl City's registration in the Mactan Economic Zone 1 for alleged involvement in the smuggling into the country of 8,260 tons of used clothes.

Peza documents showed that the company, formerly known as Pearl City Manufacturing Corp., is American-owned and engaged in recycling and processing of used clothing into wool fiber, cotton fiber, polyester fiber, usable clothing, and industrial wiping rugs.

The Peza chief said that an audit the agency conducted in May showed that Pearl City had unaccounted importation of 7.8 million kilograms—about 330 containers—of used clothing materials since January 2003.

"It could not explain the whereabouts of

PEZA/ B2

GLORIETTA 3
PHILIPS

MALL owners are urged to shorten operating hours to help the country save at least 12 percent on oil imports.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Shorter mall hours loom

By Abigail L. Ho

MALL rats beware: 10-hour shopping marathons may very well be a thing of the past if the government convinces shopping malls to have shorter operating hours to save on electricity.

The Department of Energy, under its "EC (energy conservation) Way of Life" campaign, is urging owners of shopping malls and commercial complexes to shorten their operating hours to help the country achieve savings of at least 12 percent on oil imports.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the DOE was encouraging industrial and commercial establishments to "voluntarily" monitor their energy consumption as well as put in place their

ENERGY/ B2

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GSMI earnings up 23% in July

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc. (GSMI), the hard liquor distributor of San Miguel Corp., reported that its net earnings jumped 23 percent in July to P135 million from P110 million during the same period last year, the company said in its stock exchange report.

For the first seven months, GSMI's net income stood at P1.086 billion, up 5 percent from a year earlier, on the back of higher local demand and healthy exports.

GSMI said its operating income in July alone rose 29 percent to P221 million from P171 million in the same period a year ago.

Total revenues stood at P1.085 billion from P903 million a year earlier. Volumes in July grew 18 percent year-on-year as the company also boosted its sales and marketing programs.

Consumer demand for its gin products Frasco and Frasquito were especially strong in July as liquor volumes of the two products grew by 32 percent and 36 percent respectively from year-ago levels.

Sales gains were also seen for gin products GSM Blue and Angelito, Gran Matador brandy and Chinese wine Vino Kulafu.

Vino Kulafu, in particular, pushed its southern Philippines volume by 45 percent in July.

The company is currently pursuing a regional expansion strategy to tap huge market opportunities abroad.

GSMI earlier said it would introduce packaging formats as it sought to satisfy a huge market of liquor drinkers.

Benguet urges BWD to rethink water bid

BENGUET Corp. is protesting the the decision of the Baguio Water District (BWD) disqualifying the country's oldest mining firm from participating in the bid for a bulk water project.

The water project is supposed to supply 50,000 cubic meters of potable water daily to the city for 25 years.

The project is part of the rehabilitation and expansion of Baguio City's water system, which the Australian government is funding through a P1-billion loan.

A BWD committee in an April resolution declared Benguet as the only bidder out of five that passed its requirements. In July, the committee issued a resolution disqualifying Benguet from the water project.

Benguet filed its request for reconsideration and clarification early in August.

It was reported that BWD disqualified Benguet after traces of lead, cadmium and manganese were found in the firm's raw water sources in Itogon, as well as mercury from one of its open pit mines.

Benguet was supposed to turn one open pit into a water reservoir and use the water to supply the city.

The water in the reservoir will be treated using modern facilities to be set up by the company to attain the required quality of potable water.

Benguet also said the quality of its raw water passed the tests conducted by the University of the Philippines Natural Sciences Research Institute.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Benguet officials argued that its bid was junked based on "flimsy and insufficient grounds."

Benguet is the first mining firm to diversify into the water business after developing the "Danum" bottled water brand. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Music Corp. puts off stock offer

SEMICONDUCTORS maker Music Corp. said it was putting off its planned stock rights offer of as much as P90 million later this year after it wiped out its capital deficit.

Also, Music said in its disclosure that neither market conditions nor the company's status are "strong enough" to ensure the success of its planned stock offering.

Jimmy Soo, Music Corp. chair, said the terms of the offering have yet to be ironed out and would depend on the company's market price.

The funds to be raised in the proposed stock rights offering has been earmarked for new product development.

Originally, the company planned to offer stock rights this year. It also expected to wipe out its capital deficit worth roughly P38.5 million by the first quarter of 2005.

The company has been applying additional paid-in capital to wipe out its deficit, as well as reorganizing its capital by reducing its shares and par value.

Sources said the deficit arose from business losses when the company invested heavily in research and development for its subsidiary for the production of high generation semiconductors. It was caught in the technology bubble burst sometime between 2000 and 2001, putting a dent on expected gains from its investment in R&D.

The company also said sales were expected to decline in the second half of this year. It sees full year net sales at P217 million. Net profits however will be flat at P48 million as the company had initiated cost-cutting measures this year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

War of the ruses

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN THEIR media "counter-offensive" on the Smokey Mountain garbage-dump project, complete with commercial complex and port terminal, the group of businessman Reghis Romero II (i.e. R-II) is harping on the so-called port war.

Why they talk like soldiers, referring to business competition as "war" and to media campaign as "counter-offensive," perhaps has nothing to do with the most important figure who was caught in the crossfire—Kuya Eddie himself.

It was only Kuya Eddie who pushed for the project during his term as President of the Republic. Unfortunately, today, it has become a hot issue! Heck, it has turned into a WAR, right?

For one, if you believe Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, there is a forthcoming Senate investigation on the multibillion-peso project, centering on the use of government funds. Then there is the big case with the Supreme Court which bears watching.

But just because Kuya Eddie is an ex-soldier—and ex-soldiers surrounded him during his term and, perhaps, even up to now—does it mean he is behind this "counter-offensive" in the port "war," ha, mistah? All right, double time! Sir, yes, sir!

* * *

MAYBE it's just that the media campaign of R-II Builders, which was the original company Romero used for the housing-cum-port operation project, must be trying to bring out the issue of "competition."

They are saying, in effect, that it is all a ruse. So what is this now, the war of the ruses?

To them, all this noise in media—from the filing of the Supreme Court case to the impassioned speeches in the Senate calling for a congressional inquiry in aid of whatever—may have something to do with nothing but money.

Romero is the principal owner of R-II Builders. During the time of Kuya Eddie, the government contracted the company to erase that world famous garbage dump in Tondo from the face of the earth, by converting it into a low cost housing site.

As part of the deal, Romero and company would get to reclaim some 40 hectares in Manila Bay. The area later—meaning, during the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band—was increased to 120 hectares.

Anyway, as part of the deal between R-II Builders and the government, part of the reclaimed land would be used for commercial and industrial businesses, including a cargo handling port.

That's why the Romero boys are saying that some groups at the port, most likely, do not like Romero's port venture to succeed for fear of losing their own business volume in the future. Fair enough!

* * *

STILL, in the Supreme Court case filed by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who is seeking to nullify the Smokey Mountain contract, he has alleged all sorts of wrongdoings, except perhaps incest and adultery.

Among them was the use of government resources to finance the project. The contract specified that the government did not have to put up a single centavo.

If you ask the Romero boys about it, they will likely say that, in the real estate business, it's a common practice of developers to raise part of the funding elsewhere.

In the case of R-II Builders, as a matter of fact, the stockholders already put up 30 percent of the equity in the Smokey Mountain project. The rest was borrowed.

Moreover, even Kuya Eddie himself has said that the investors would get back all their investments in the future. It's not as if the money is gone. Nobody knows if his combative words were part of the "counter-offensive."

* * *

ANYWAY, as an example, the Romero camp points out that the private pension fund SSS already has received P800 million of the P1.1 billion it invested in the project.

As part of its earnings from the investment, moreover, the financially-challenged SSS will get eight hectares of the reclaimed land in the future.

But that is, well, if the Supreme Court does not declare the contract null and void, in the first place, similar to what it did to the PEA-Amari contract.

In that case, the rest of the government investors will have to say goodbye to love, *este*, their money.

Success of the entire venture rests on the so-called Harbour Centre, complete with a port terminal, to which the Romero defense force refers as the real front in the port war.

In Manila, you see, some estimates put the volume of cargo handling business at P12 billion a year. It is a lot of money. Some people can start a real shooting war for less.

* * *

RUMORS have it that one of the casualties of the, er, "port war" was Antonio Bernardo, the former customs commissioner. He is said to have lost the battle over Harbour Centre.

Supposedly, Bernardo did not sign the "memorandum of agreement" between the Bureau of Customs and Harbour Centre. The MOA would have cleared the legal status of Harbour Centre as a port of entry.

As it is, since Bernardo left, the BOC has been investigating Harbour Centre for alleged smuggling. Reportedly, it was being used as a front for vegetable smuggling.

That was a good one. And so I had to call up Tony Bernardo himself. I know this guy from way back in school. He is straight and honest, and I am willing to bet my *bomboderos* on it. Did he or did he not sign the MOA?

He explained to me that he actually assigned a deputy commissioner to study it. It's just that the "study" was not yet done by the time he left the bureau.

But then again, why did he have to leave the bureau? No answer. Rumors had it that he would be the next SEC chair. Apparently not! Tony Bernardo, it seems to me, was waylaid in the battle of Harbour Centre.

Shorter mall hours loom

From page B1

own energy conservation measures.

One such energy saving measure would be for shopping malls to adopt operating hours shorter than the current 10 a.m.-8 p.m. schedule (excluding movie theaters and some food establishments).

In a television interview before President Macapagal-Arroyo's Pulong Bayan last Saturday, Perez said there were ongoing talks with Ayala mall officials with regard to government's call for shorter operating hours.

The Ayalas operate some of the biggest high-end malls in the country, including the Glorietta shopping center and the Greenbelt complex in Makati, the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa and the Ayala Center in Cebu.

Talks would soon be initiated with the SM and Robinsons mall chains of taipans Henry Sy and John Gokongwei, respectively, Perez said.

He said initial talks with owners of malls and commercial establishments showed that they were receptive to heeding the government's call for energy conservation.

While no actual agreements with any of these businesses had been drawn up, he said their mere receptiveness to the idea of shortening their operating hours was quite encouraging.

Two aspects of the DOE's "EC Way of Life" campaign involved commercial and industrial establishments as well as locators in the country's economic zones.

Malls and other commercial establishments fall under the Partnership for Energy Responsive Companies (PERCS), while ecozone locators are lumped together under the Partnership for Responsive Ecozones (Perez).

A number of companies have actually signed up for the two programs, among them Dole Philippines Inc., Passi Iloilo Sugar Central Inc., Richmonde Hotel, Manila Galleria Suites, Corinthian Plaza Condominium, Makati Prince Tower Condominium Corp. and 18 other establishments under the PERCS program, and Microtel Inn and Suites, SHI Manufacturing and Services Philippines, Integrated Device Technology, Toshiba Information Equipment Philippines Inc. and Hello Snack Foods Corp. under the Perez program.

As a possible incentive for these firms to sign up for the programs and implement their own energy conservation measures, the Don Emilio Abello Energy Efficiency Award was put in place.

The award will be given to companies and energy managers that will be able to set up and implement energy efficiency and conservation programs effective enough for them to achieve significant energy savings.

Local awardees can also join the Asean Best Practices Award in Building.

Perez said the success of the "EC Way of Life" campaign was hinged on the cooperation of the private sector. As this was the case, the government would be setting an example for private entities to follow by targeting a 10-percent reduction in overall energy consumption over the coming months.

Peza chief sues Cebu firm . . .

From page B1

57.5 percent of used clothing it imported tax- and duty-free between January 2003 and March 2004," she said.

In a prepared statement, De Lima said Peza faxed a copy of its decision to Pearl City last July 22.

"The following day, I received Ty's letter with an attached affidavit relating his fabricated story on the supposed 'request for financial arrangement' and implicating four Peza officials on alleged extortion," she said.

De Lima said the allegations were incredulous, notably Ty's claim that the extortion was made through a call from a Peza official's cell phone to one of his representatives.

"The bill for that cell phone [which has post-paid line] showed that nobody called his representative," De Lima said.

De Lima also added that Pearl City had been involved in a similar violation in 1999.

She said Pearl City's registration was to have been canceled then, but this was reduced to a fine of P377,890 and a warning that "a similar violation in the future shall...constitute a sufficient ground for the automatic cancellation of its registration."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 30, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	284,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41	185,200
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	40
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	40.5	41.5	17,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.42	0.42	730,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	378,000
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	2,400
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	22	55,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2245	2245	2245	2245	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.48	1.58	1.44	1.44	2,937,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1530	1530	1530	1530	80
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	18,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	875	870	875	17,780
Ipeople Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	225,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	5,718,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1260	1265	1260	1265	46,330
Ivantage Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.67	0.67	1,740,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	46,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	21.25	21.5	1,038,700
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	2,375,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	62,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.3	2,195,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.53	0.61	0.53	0.61	170,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	170,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.16	2.24	13,391,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	42,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	237,300
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	190,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	58	58	26,000
San Miguel Corp. B	70	70	69	69	60,000
Universal Robina Corp.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	103,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	24,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	522,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	534,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	4,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.26	1.4	1.26	1.38	2,593,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.5	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	26	26	26	26	104,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.49	7,580,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	780,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.27	0.29	23,080,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	2,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.18	2.04	2.04	21,893,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.033	8,300,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	185,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.25	24	24	346,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.0725	0.0725	16,500,000
Ionics Inc.	2.24	2.55	2.24	2.36	7,896,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.74	61,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	405,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	29,540,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	610,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.46	0.37	0.46	57,790,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	37	37	36	37	3,400
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.92	2.08	1.9	1.98	4,496,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.02	204,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.0675	3,000,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.69	0.71	16,890,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	780,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	370,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	20	19.75	20	56,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	22,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	544,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	2,470,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	5,950,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.185	0.175	0.18	540,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.4	1,090,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,735,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	43,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	195,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.015	233,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	151,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	112,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	50,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,600,000
Pacifica	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	23,000

DISCLOSURES

METRO Pacific Corp. announced the appointment of Jose Ma. Lim as chief operating officer of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp.

* * *

SOME 631,000 shares of **A. Soriano Corp.** were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University declared a cash dividend of P0.10 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Sept. 10. The dividend is payable on Oct. 6.

* * *

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. announced the resignation of Reginald Hare as director for exploration.

* * *

FAR Eastern University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 18, 3 p.m. at the Archives Hall, 3/F of FEU Administration Building, Sampaloc, Manila. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 23 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank declared a cash dividend of P0.50 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. It is payable on Sept. 27.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 16, 8 a.m. at the Penthouse of East Tower, PSE Centre, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of July 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Music Semiconductors Corp.** were Jimmy Soo, Michael Burton, Juan Custodio, Patrick Go, Jose Alexander Ignacio, Therese Santos and Antonio Cailao. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Will our lawmakers beef about giving up pork?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

NELSON Mandela was relaxing at his farm when a Japanese man knocked on his door with a truckload of tires. Thrusting a clipboard in front of Mandela, he said "Sign." "They are not for me, I have already retired." The man went away unhappy. Next day, he returned with a truck full of exhaust pipes and again said to Mandela, "Sign." "I am getting exhausted with all this nonsense. Go away. They are for somebody else." The man was decidedly peeved but next day, he returned with a truckload of brake pads. Nelson Mandela yelled, "Give me a brake, You have got me confused with somebody else." "The Japanese man looked at his invoice and asked, "You are not NISSAN MAIN DEALER?"

A neurologist was examining three old men for signs of memory loss. To the first, he asked, "What is 3 times 3?" "274" replied the man. The neurologist shook his head sadly and asked the second man. "Tuesday", he replied. In despair, he asked the third man. "Nine," he replied. "That is correct," said the neurologist excitedly. How did you work it out? "Oh, that's simple. I just subtracted 274 from Tuesday."

A middle-aged woman had a heart attack and a near-death experience but God told her to go back because she had another 30 years to live. So she had a face-lift, liposuction, breast enlargement and a tummy tuck. She also dyed her hair blonde and wore a Christian Dior dress. As she left the hospital, she was knocked down by an ambulance and killed. When she appeared before God, she was very angry. "Why did you do this to me? You promised me another 30 years." "I am very sorry," said God. "I did not recognize you."

I was watching CNN regarding the fighting around the shrine at NAJAF when the commentator said, " There are hundreds dead in the cemetery." True story.

Our boxers got knocked out,
Our swimmers got a hernia.
Which shows you shouldn't medal
With things that don't concernia.

* * *

I DID not want to write about the stock market today because somebody stole my antidepressants. However, in the past few days, there has been a distinct improvement in sentiment following the publication of the University of the Philippines' economic warning and the President's subsequent wake-up call. We have been in this position for the past three years and I have published several dire warnings of what will happen if we just sit and do nothing. The bear in bearbull has been prominent. It is as if we are in a barrel riding the rapids and it is only a matter of time before we go over Niagara Falls to be crushed at the bottom.

Fortunately, we are still several miles upstream so there is still time to prevent a catastrophe, even if it means going from one extream to another. A reduction in the pork barrel by the senators and congressmen would be a good start and would make new taxes a little easier to bear. But by far the most important issue is the collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, as this accounts for 70 percent of the nation's revenue. In the first half of this year, it was P6 billion below target, and in percentage terms just about the lowest in Asia.

There should be a complete shake-up, with the present collectors replaced by CFA's and MBA's outside government circles. For example, we could get people from commerce or from the academe, which has little knowledge of corruption. They should be given targets, plus incentives based on results. I feel sure that there would be an immediate and substantial increase if this were to be implemented. We cannot eliminate corruption but we can at least try to reduce it. A really tough person should be in charge of this department.

Then there has to be an end to the tax credits, which companies that have no use for them, sell at a discount to companies that can offset them against profits. This is costing an unbelievable amount. The whole question of tax breaks has to be reviewed and simplified as quickly as possible. The President has signified her intention of giving this priority and the above two measures could make a huge impact on the deficit.

The best way to implement the tax on petroleum is to wait for the oil companies to roll back their prices, which should happen quite soon as crude oil has fallen from a high of $49 a barrel to $44, a drop of 10 percent. Allowing for the depreciation of the peso by 1 percent, it should still be possible for premium grade petrol to be reduced by P2.25 over the next 2 months. Of course, this presupposes that oil prices will remain at this level or go lower. The majority of oil analysts in the U.S. see the price falling to $40 in the near term.

As the oil companies roll back their prices, so the government can insert part of the P2 increase they need, thereby keeping the price at the pump constant. As oil prices decline, the government increases its tax by a corresponding amount until all of the tax has been factored in. Thereafter, the tax remains and the price of petrol moves in line with the price of crude oil and the peso. Motorists and jeepney drivers might not like this but it is kinder and gentler than just slapping on another P2 a liter, which will prompt demands for another fare increase.

An increase in VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent would not be noticed given the present rate in inflation. Increasing the price of alcohol is a must but in the case of cigarettes, the increase should be much greater. I have seen two of my friends, both much younger than myself, die horribly from lung cancer this year. One had no insurance and was left to die at home while the other left a medical bill for P1.4 million to his children.

This is not just a tax-raising issue, it is a health issue. There should be an immediate increase of P10 a pack regardless of the retail selling price. If this forces some people to quit, it could add 12 years to their life span and reduce the cost to the nation. The government would be doing these people a favor, and there is strong evidence that second hand smoke also kills. So by stopping the parents, you can extend the lives of the children.

The next few months should indicate whether the lawmakers are at last going to cooperate. If they do, then I would expect the PHISIX to attempt to break the 1,600 level, which has so far proved impenetrable this year.

The news from Wall Street is mixed. The price of crude oil, in which I take a crude interest, appears to have peaked, at least for the moment. But the economy is slowing down. In the first quarter, it improved by 6.5 percent, but in the second quarter, it rose by only 6.2 percent. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

CAP, Veterans Bank in talks on ₱400-M loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. is seeking a P400-million loan from its trustee bank Philippine Veterans Bank to augment tuition fee payment for its scholars.

In an interview yesterday, CAP first vice president Bobi Cafe said PVB had committed to lend P400 million to the company over a five-year period.

However, the loan will be disbursed on an "as needed" basis. The first tranche of P25 million is currently being negotiated, he said.

PVB is a private commercial bank owned by Filipino World War II veterans and their heirs.

But PVB spokesperson Mike Villa-real said the bank was not likely to push through with a fresh credit package for CAP.

He said the bank changed its mind because the Securities and Exchange Commission did not allow the use of CAP's holdings of Manila Railway Transit (MRT) bonds as collateral for the loan.

The PVB official noted that two years ago, CAP had obtained a P440-million letter of credit from PVB but this had been fully settled. A new loan of at least P300 million was being worked out but this did not push through because of the MRT bond issue, Villa-real said.

Cafe, on the other hand, said CAP would not use MRT bonds as collateral for the proposed loans.

"We'll use our real estate assets in Canyon Woods," he said. Canyon Woods is a leisure estate in Tagaygay.

The CAP official said the SEC gave the trustee bank the discretion to evaluate the collateral for any new loan.

Last month, CAP announced plans to issue convertible preferred shares to allow a prospective foreign investor to acquire a third of the pre-need giant's total equity.

CAP director Robert John Sobrepeña said that under study was the possible issuance of preferred shares that may be redeemable in 10 years in exchange for an equity infusion of at least $100 million by a prospective investor.

The pre-need firm enrolls its scholars under a direct-to-school payment facility agreement (DSPFA), under which CAP advances the payment of 60 percent of the estimated tuition fee of its scholars.

SEC to supervise Philcomsat Holdings stockholders' meeting today

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Inc. is finally holding today a stockholders' meeting to be supervised by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Publicly listed PHI, formerly Liberty Mines Inc., has not held a stockholders meeting since a dispute for control sometime in 2000 among major stockholders in its grandparent firm, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., erupted. Philcomsat, a wholly owned subsidiary of POTC, is a major stockholder in PHI.

The battle for control in POTC made a drastic changed in the organizational and power structure in Philcomsat, which, in turn, affected the holding of regular stockholders' meetings in PHI and consequently shut off the investing public from receiving a regular updating on the status of their investments in the company.

Analysts have welcomed the holding of the stockholders' meeting today of the publicly listed PHI, saying this was "one good sign of bringing back public confidence to publicly traded stocks."

Ecozone investments jump 124% to ₱29.4B in first 8 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NEW ELECTRONICS and garments projects boosted economic zone investment commitments in August by 16.7 percent to P938 million from P804 million the same month in 2003.

Also, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported that ecozone investments in the first eight months jumped 124.4 percent to P29.4 billion from P13.1 billion.

The biggest investment approved last month in terms of project cost was Lexmark Research and Development Corp.'s P320.6-million laboratory for the engineering design and hardware development for the manufacture of inkjet and laser printers.

The Swiss firm's project will be located at Cebu Business Park's Innove IT Plaza, to which Malacañang granted ecozone status only last June 16.

Lexmark R&D expects to earn an average of $9 million a year for the export of its products to Switzerland.

Scrap Heap International Corp.'s P193.8-million project for the manufacture of wearing apparel for export to India and the rest of Asia was the second biggest project approved by Peza.

Scrap Heap is a 65-35 joint venture between Filipino and Korean companies and expects to earn an average of $27 million a year. The location for the project has yet to be chosen.

Also approved during the month was Gyeong Woo Garments Co. Inc.'s P87-million project for the manufacture of wearing apparel, as well as garments washing, embroidery and printing.

The Korean-Filipino joint venture will locate at the Cavite Economic Zone. It expects a yearly export earnings of $4.6 million from its American, Japanese and European customers.

The project with the biggest earnings potential is Panasonic Communications Imaging Corp. of the Philippines, with expected revenue of $47.8 million a year.

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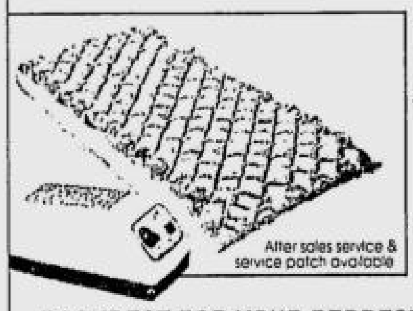

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Ayala Land announces completion of Bonifacio Ridge

AYALA Land Inc (ALI) sales director, Jay Visco announced the completion of the Bonifacio Ridge, a beautifully crafted two-tower residential condominium at the northwestern section of the Bonifacio Global City. "The units will be ready for turnover as early as October this year," Visco said during the poolside cocktails held recently to celebrate the occasion. All the units are now undergoing thorough inspection. "We normally punchlist the units to see that they are up to standard, as a means of ensuring the quality of our products before we turnover to our buyers," he explained.

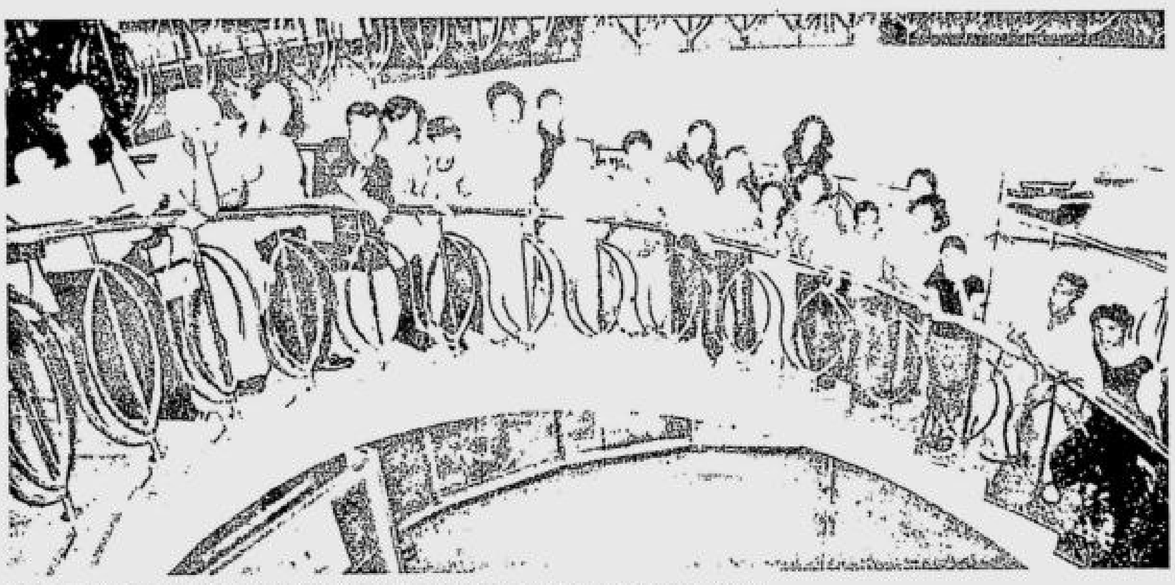
The 18-level condominium building is different from other similar development due to the priority that was given to the open space that is a key element in its design. The allowed density for the lot was not maximized. The building could have been made higher but greater consideration was given for the residents to be able to enjoy more generous open space. Only 288 units share 7,643 square meters of land, with 144 units per tower. The landscaped common area occupies as much as 60 percent of the lot. The twin towers share an elegantly landscaped podium. Other amenities include kiddie and adult swimming pools, a jogging area, and a multi-purpose hall.

The Bonifacio Ridge is strategically located, just five minutes away from the Makati Central Business District via the Kalayaan flyover. Residents can also enjoy a fantastic view of the spectacular Makati skyline as well as the vast expanse of green of the Manila Golf Course since it is right beside Fairway 13. It is an ideal place for gracious living as well as entertaining. "In Bonifacio Ridge, you can look forward to a more relaxed lifestyle," Leya Moya, manager for ALI Residential Buildings Group remarked during the cocktails as she welcomed the invited guests and interested buyers who braved the afternoon rain to grace the occasion. "Here, you will find the type of community that you will want to belong to," Moya said.

The Bonifacio Ridge, which was developed by the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC), is the first residential condominium to be managed and marketed by Ayala Land Inc at the Bonifacio Global City. Flexible payment options are affordable with selected banks providing up to 80 percent financing of the total purchase price with attractive discounts.

ING BANK RENEWS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HOUR

ING Bank's renewed support for the Children's Hour campaign resulted in the company's employees donating to the campaign's various beneficiaries. Presenting ING's contribution to Children's Hour chairperson Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, is ING Bank managing director Manuel Salak III. Also joining them are (from left) Ayala Corp associate director Teresita Villacorta, ING human resource head Sylvia Gotauco, ING deputy chief Consuelo Garcia, and Children's Hour executive director Evangeline Mayuga. Children's Hour raises funds by calling on companies and individuals to devote one hour of their earnings to programs for disadvantaged Filipino children. For inquiries, visit www.childrenshour.org.ph.



VIRLANIE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS VISIT THE INQUIRER

Twenty high school and college scholars of the Virlanie Foundation visited the Philippine Daily Inquirer and learned about newspaper production and printing. Virlanie young adults program coordinator Maud Bernal was also present to assist the scholars in the tour. The tour was organized and facilitated by the Inquirer's strategic marketing communications office. For information on tours, contact 897-8808 local 260 or 209.

Sugar Hiccup brings attitude to teen brands

WITH a name that reminds us of a popular local alternative band whose career was heightened a few years back, here comes an alternative brand, whose sassiness and all-attitude personality has won the world, even Hollywood, over.

Meet Sugar Hiccup, a sweet, fun, and street-smart girl, but with a rebellious nature and an unquenchable thirst for extreme adventure. Sometimes, her curiosity gets her and her best-friends Milo and Natasha into trouble but she manages to outwit such situations through her optimism and "go-get-it-girl" attitude. She loves hanging out with her punk band playing guitar. Although she's a mere brand, she conveys more than what meets the eye as she sets the trends and brings out individuality among today's teens, tweens and beyond.

At present, Sugar Hiccup is the new carrier icon in an extensive line of apparel, bags, interactive wireless cellphone animation and novelty items abroad. Her charm goes all the way to stationery and social expression products such as journals, shopping lists, address books, notebooks and calendars from back-to-school leader and internationally renowned Mead Corporation. Notably, Sugar has also become an attention grabber to Hollywood people such as TV host/actress Lisa Kushell and a certain wardrobe director for a Dish network show.

What's more, Sugar Hiccup accessories will be seen in an upcoming Disney movie "A Lot Like Love" starring Ashton Kutcher (Butterfly Effect, Hey Dude...Where's My Car?) and Amanda Peet, which is scheduled for release in local theaters next year.

With her merchandise currently being distributed by Hot Topic, Torrid, Claire's Boutique, and even the retailer Next which is based in London, as well as many trendy shops and boutiques worldwide, Sugar Hiccup is one promising brand for our local merchandise, not to mention the local fashion industry.

Sugar Hiccup is brought to the Philippines by Empire International Merchandising Corporation (EIMC) and Inkmonster. For licensing opportunities, contact 722-4311/ 722-4325 or email empirent@mozcom.com.

ASAP
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ASAP, GLOBE INK SPONSORSHIP CONTRACT

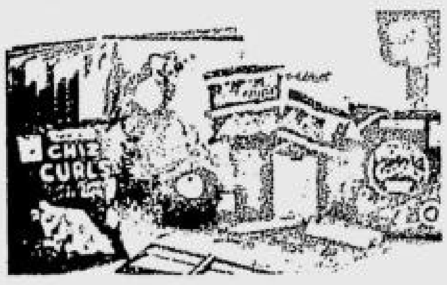
Shown is the sponsorship contract signing by Asap with Globe Telecommunications on Aug. 18 at the Globe Conference room, GT Plaza 2, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. Seated (from left) Alvin Manacsa, chair; Ferdz dela Cruz, head, wireless business group, Globe; Afif Khodr, president; (standing) Norelyn Babiera, finance and exhibits committee chair; Cergen Go, chair, 2004 Asap Conference and Armando Reyes , head, advertising and media, Globe.

Product FILES

Nike innovation aims to defy speed

NIKE introduces new product innovations this season that helps maximize athletic performance through speed. The advanced Nike technology that comes with the products is designed to inspire you to be faster than you think. For any athlete, speed is an important factor - it can mean an edge over the competition, a gold medal, a world-record or even a lifetime achievement. The ability to shave off time from an athlete's performance is essential and Nike constantly develops technology to help them achieve exactly that. Through research and collecting insights from top athletes such as Marion Jones, Justin Gatlin, Lance Armstrong and Serena Williams, Nike develops technology and products that help athletes move faster across a variety of sports. Visit your favorite Nike store now to check out its newest line of products.

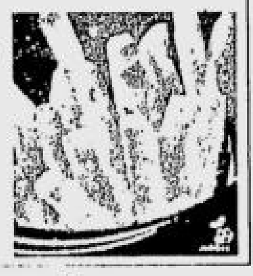
Super cheese snacks from Jack n' Jill



KIDS just can't get enough of Universal Robina Corp's Jack n' Jill super cheesy Chiz Curls, zesty Mr Chips and fun, flavorful Roller Coaster. These products are not just rich in their cheesy taste, they are also fortified with Iron and Vitamin A. Thus, these three brands are accredited by the Department of Health (DOH), as indicated by the Sangkap Pinoy Seal in every Chiz Curls, Mr Chips and Roller Coaster wrapper. Jack n' Jill Chiz Curls, Roller Coaster and Mr Chips definitely make family activities more fun-filled and school trips more of an adventure.

The crispiest ever, new Jolly Crispy Fries

BRACE yourself to the crispiest sound from Jollibee which is the latest hit in town. Tune it at Jollibee and discover its latest French fries offering, the new Jolly Crispy Fries, "Pinaka-crispy! Mas pina-sarap!" Made from golden potatoes and deep-fried to crispy perfection, the Jolly Crispy Fries will satisfy your cravings for French fries. The Jolly Crispy Fries is firm and crisp outside and soft and filling inside with a delicious, lip-smacking taste that you would surely crave for more. Whether having lunch with co-workers, or taking a mid-day snack with your barkada, these crisp fries are a perfect accompaniment to your favorite Jollibee meals. So go ahead and heed the sound of the ultimate crispiness.



BITS Clips

PCOM confab

THE PHILIPPINE College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) will hold its 7th Midyear Convention at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, with the theme "Occupational Health Amidst Conflicts". The convention will highlight the coping strategies and survival skills of occupational health practitioners in a changing political and economic landscape, according to Dr. Gene B. Alvarez, overall chair of the convention. Dr. Alvarez added that the convention will tackle the impact of migration of health professionals on the Philippine health system. Founded in 1976, PCOM is the prime mover of occupational health activities in the country. It is recognized by the Department of Labor and Employment as its partner in improving the health of Filipino workers.

Total 'Cash Panalo!' promo

TOTAL Lubricants is giving away P10,000 to lucky customers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with its "Cash Panalo!" promo. To join, simply purchase 4 liters of any Total lubricant to get a scratch card, which will serve as the raffle entry to the P10,000 promo. The scratch card also offers customers a chance to win instant prizes. There will be five winners from Luzon, two from Visayas, and three from Mindanao. The draw will be on Aug. 31. Total motor oils included in the promo are the Quartz series for gasoline engines and the Rubia series for diesel engines.

Salesmanship seminar

THE HIGH-impact salesmanship seminar is specially designed for today's sales people who face the challenge of rising above the average performance, consistently hitting their sales targets and improving the bottom line of the company. It is sponsored by Porter and Miles and is slated today, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. For more information call Mercy at 638-7719/20. Limited seats only.

'My Card, My Car' promo

THE BPI Edge MasterCard card gives its members the chance to win a brand new Peugeot 206cc convertible sports car. Valued at P1.6 million each, two of these cars will be given away to lucky individuals who apply and get approval for the BPI Mini-Edge MasterCard and/or supplementary card, or those who make a minimum single purchase of P500 using the BPI Edge MasterCard or the BPI Mini-Edge MasterCard. The BPI Edge "My Card, My Car" raffle promotion runs until today. On Sept. 15, two winners will be drawn to win the Peugeot 206 cc convertible. For more details call BPI ExpressPhone 89-100, or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.ph.

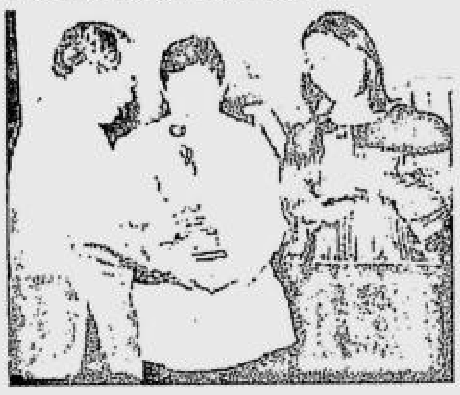
Alicia Keys: Live in Manila

NO Curfew watch stores together with Tommy Hilfiger watches is responsible for Alicia Keys: Live in Manila! 2004 World Tour. Alicia Keys is considered to be one of the greatest talents ever to emerge. A rare artist among her own generation, a singer, songwriter and extraordinary pianist who combines classical training with an old school sensibility and a direct relationship with today's mix of hiphop and R&B. Feel the energy of Alicia's songs in her concert on Oct. 9.

PRUDENTIALIFE, CBCP RE-LAUNCH PAPAL BOOK

Prudentialife Plans Inc and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) recently re-launched the Papal Book 'John Paul II, We Love You' to generate funds for the various charities of the CBCP. Prudentialife donated 4,000 copies of the Papal Book to CBCP which will be distributed in selected parishes and will not be sold commercially. The coffee table book gained added significance with the 'largest papal crowd' being cited in the Guiness World Records 2004. Pope John Paul II offered mass to an estimated crowd of 4 to 5 million people at the Luneta Park in Manila in 1995. Photo shows (from left) Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, CBCP president Rev. Fernando Capalla and Prudentialife chair ambassador Francisco Alba during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement.

PASCUAL LABORATORIES RECEIVES AWARD



The Consumer Healthcare Division of Pascual Laboratories, Inc (CHD-PLI), represented by Marie Claire N. Carlos (extreme right), sales and marketing manager, bagged the Strategic Business Unit of the Year Award for its innovative marketing campaigns for Potencee (Ascorbic Acid) and Betadine antiseptic products. The award was given during the recently concluded Marketing Executives of the Pharmaceutical-Healthcare Industry (Mepi) Excellence Awards 2004. Also in photo are (from left) Manuel J. Salazar, president and chief operating officer of Pascual Laboratories Inc receiving the award from Roberto V. Bautista, Mepi president.

REV
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IOMEGA REV PRODUCT TRAINING

Iomega Singapore and Lamco International Corp, the preferred IT distributor recently conducted a resellers' product training at Saisaki Restaurant. Photo shows Chuan Yong Wong, product manager of Iomega REV, from Iomega Singapore presenting the many features of REV. The Iomega REV 35/90 drive is the newest revolutionary removable hard disk drive system which provides the speed, reliability, and ease-of-use of a hard drive with the portability and expandability of tape and optical media.

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TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8930449

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

Tutor 09205437925 Gr.1-6

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAIDS YAYA COOK 7289060

A'A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

All around maids,cook,yaya 6957507

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

BEST MAIDS YAYA COOK LABA 842-9807 / 772-4213

BestmaidA/A Ya2 w/NBI 4547542

EZ HOME AGNCY 8234243

GOOD MAID YAYA COOK LABA 853-3505 853-3504

GOOD MAIDS YAYA BOY DRIVER MIDWIFE 757-2089 / 728-4093

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

MAIDS YAYA COOK LABA 912-4706 • 912-4701

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS 873-7057 • 8738740

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

BEST MAIDS 8250754

Trusted Maids w/NBI 4392490

TRUSTWORTHY, MASIPAG MAID, YAYA 725-2945 • 725-0298

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

800 LIPAT 6817623/6964936

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

LBAHAY 7113540

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY
418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. infrnt of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig 09189422422•09178212826

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gie 8903461 loc 27

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

3BR LA359m² #56 BULGARIA ST 2 ADJCNT LOTS 240M²@ SOUTHERN JAMEN BTR LVNG PQUE 0921-3332838

PASIG

Pasig H&L 3br 3tb RFO 1.9M Terms Inhse 0919-6782123

QUEZON CITY

Nr Ateneo 4.8m² & Up 6453731

RIZAL

1STY 100SQM 1.5M 2855129

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST
FRONTING XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL
0919-8883585 / 721-2166

OTHER AREAS

A PRIME SUBD 2 bdrms 1T&B LA 170m² P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

BULACAN

Sta Maria 225T 09196499406

CAVITE

P650K L-11 Blk-6 Regatta- West Subd. Bucandala-3, Imus 4 BR/ 2T&B Call (0922)803-2895

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA2 10m² P1.9M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

Technopark 400T 09276438231

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

Pasong Tamo Mktl RFO Stu 1BR 2BR 2.3M & Up Easy Terms Financing P50T to Reserve 8731742. 0918-9282591

MANILA

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3tbmaid's rm1-2grge P3.990M up 8903461 loc. 34

Twnhses nr DLSU - Taft Ave LA42 - 48Sm 1Car P2.5M UP 562-3531 / 0917- 5272166

QUEZON CITY

Gmeadows P12M & Up 634-1212

APARTMENT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CONCRETE 2UNITS APT. BLDG 3BR / Unit on 486 sqm Lot Balusong, Matina, Davao City 6M Contact Davao Bert 300-6499

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3.473m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MAKATI

Mc Kinley Hills 634-1212

MANDALUYONG

MAND. 600m² LOT 532-3936

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Rosario 1500 @3000m² Wide Road Nice Call 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 1150m² Ok 4 Comm'l 14T/sm Wide Road 645-3731

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA 149m² & 134m2 P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CAGBANG OTON ILOILO 6,100m² Call 656-0843

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,650/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Calamba Laguna Lot & Warehouse w/ wall quarters water-pump electricity Landline: Call Linda 043-3181310 /0916-3640009

HOT SPRING LOTS
LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m² 30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0% adjacent U.P. Los Banos Call: 842-9877 • Cell 0927-2946992

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

BUSINESS SPACE

Derm Cosmetic Surg. Clinic Fully Furnishd 534-4003 / 631-3496

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE PARK 634-1212

Lawn 18T Mausoleum 319T 15lots Antipolo 6470376

Loy-M G-ress@52T 8386645

Loy-P Cheap 45T 0916-4834182

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

FOR SALE
- Mountain Quarry 16.25 Hec. (P400,000/hec.)
- Agricultural Land 5.0 Hec. (P900,000/hec.)
- Location: Brgy Dalig, Balayan, Batangas
- Contact: ELI Off. Hrs. Tel. 631-9520 • 634-4746 Cellphone 0917-8495433

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAGUNA

PACITA II BLURIDGE 5610197

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

FOR RENT 1BR CONDO w/PARKING HV DELA COSTA SALCEDO VILLAGE MAKATI CALL MYLENE 0917-7962603

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Balagtas RYL Mns V.Cruz nr H.Plaza 3BR 90m² 20T Nice View 873-1742 • 0918-9282591

V.CRUZ Nr. La Salle H.PLaza 8TB 1BR 13T 2BR 0918-9282591 • 873-1742

MANDALUYONG

Govs Place Shaw nr Edsa Stud P8.5T 534-8146, 0917-8193433

PASIG

Spacious Townhomes
3BR 3TB w/BTub & Maids Rm Grge w/Pool & Security at VV6 22T • Call 687-5401 Tess

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR HONDA ST GRGE 12T CALL 8820203 ; 09178318551

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Apart 9957167-68

N-Mla 3Units 1-2BR 7229573

ROOM & BOARD

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3577523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Erne 8903461 loc 25/23

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT
BAYVIEW INTL. TOWER 3
Roxas Blvd Pque. Semi Furnished 4br+maids. 1-Parking. Sale P7.5M / Rent P65Kpm + dues. Neg. Contact 8934110 or 0927 8904030

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/Aj

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

FORD Expedition XLT 98 low mileage 0917-5374140

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Town-Lite-Hi Ace Vanette Delica Serena Terrano Rvr Estima Prado etc 7127539

BUSES/TRUCKS

WATER DELIVERY TRUCK COMPLETE SET P270 •TEL#809-8046•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 534-4003 / 631-3496

CAR VANS 410-0495

CareVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8069956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L-3/ADV 415-8473

STAREX'04 MB100 9483535

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-6822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

25T New Compl Sr Imptd 7767507

BUY/SELL

Educ Plan - 2528373 Ramona

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

Tired N Sick? Take RE-VITA LIQUAHEALTH 09178479179

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL Trains w/K9 Pschology Tel. 721-3736

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop - Makati City Auction Sale on September 06, 2004 all unredeemed pledges during the month of April 1-30, 2004 Nuestra Br. II 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. IX - 3:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza - Auctioneer.
(PDI-August 31, 2004)

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA - Will have its auction sale on September 7, 2004 All unredeemed pledges during the month of April 1-30, 2004. Diajade Br. II-11 30am - Sons of J Lanuza Auctioneer.
(PDI - August 31, 2004)

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. Victorias City, Negros Occidental wishes to invite interested parties/bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the **development of E-Procurement System from uploading of materials to be procured in the website to formatting of suppliers' quoted price to our system.**

Pre-qualification Requirements for Bidders:
*Accreditation with VMC
*Track record/s of similar job/s done

Pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **September 1 to 8, 2004,** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **September 10, 2004.** The pre-bid conference for qualified bidders is on **September 14, 2004, 3:00 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental**. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/manager's check payable to Victorias Milling Company, Inc.

For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador, Ramon P. Pun-an or Edwin D. Togonon** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3696 to 97, (034)399-3699** and (local) **2309**, and **Mr. Ping Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062**. or visit our website www.victoriasmilling.com and e-mail us at mcd@victoriasmilling.com.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense/s or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an "as-is-where-is" basis and as one whole lot, the following National Government (NG)/National Power Corporation (NPC) properties:

DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE PRICE
Two parcels of land with a total area of 6,233 square meters, located at No. 1, Don Bosco St., Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati City	P 115,310,500.00

Sealed bids will be received on **Thursday, September 30, 2004** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P 10,000.00.

In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the subject assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

(PDI - Aug. 29, 30 & 31, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Extrajudicial settlement among heirs of Angelina P. Alejo made & entered into by & among ; Lariza P. Alejo, Rolando P. Alejo, Maria P. Alejo, Liza P. Alejo, Leah P. Alejo, Rico P. Alejo of 144 Poblacion, Kawit, Cavite (PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased ELISEA MARQUEZ LAYGO was the subject of extra judicial settlement by her heirs as per Doc. No. 6561, Page No. 0178, Book No. XXV, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Estanislao B. Austria of San Francisco County, California, USA, July 8, 2004 as authenticated by J. Eduardo Malaya, Philippine Consul for Northern California, USA, July 16, 2004 and as per Doc. No 005965, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Paince M. Saccomanni in the State of New York, July 30, 2004 as authenticated by Maria Lourdes C. Legaspi, Philippine Consul for the consular district of New York, USA, August 2, 2004.
(PDI-Aug. 31, Sept. 7 & 14, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AH WAH has been extrajudicially settle among the heirs under Doc. No. 276, Page No. 56, Book No. XXXII, Series of 2004, of Notary Public Sofronio C. Untalan Jr. of the City of Makati (PDI-August 17, 24, 31, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 0921-5914739

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

Need Xtra Income P/F Time 7126374

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Appt. Call 09275374741

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Sec. Agency 631-3496 / 534-4003

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Mongkok Dimsum & Noodles Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Cainta needs Immediately COOKS 3years experience with authentic Chinese dishes contact Mrs. Agnes Javier Tel. 4753955 / 4753960 local 25 or 26

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

VETERINARIAN Animal Science /HB experience in poultry operation 6818696, 6818071

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

FEMALE

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7246781 7272690

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO : 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region I
San Juan, La Union

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH MARKET DETERMINED PRICING (SMDP)

SMDP Bulletin No. 2004-H-01

The National Food Authority Regional Office I, San Juan, La Union invites all interested NFA licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) 14,149 bags Local RMO and 28,809 bags TGER 32 more or less, stored at the different warehouses in the provinces of Ilocos Sur, and Western Pangasinan.

PROVINCE	VOLUME(BAGS) RMO	TGER 32	WAREHOUSE LOCATION
ILOCOS SUR	0	2,053	Candon Whse, Candon, Ilocos Sur
	0	500	FLGC Whse, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur
SUB-TOTAL	0	2,553	
WEST PANG	232	0	Kazenbar Whse 2, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	5,449	683	Kazenbar Whse 3, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	3,476	3,422	Kazenbar Whse 4, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	4,992	-	Ferrer Whse I, Dagupan City
	0	22,151	Alaminos GID, Alaminos, Pangasinan
SUB-TOTAL	14,149	26,256	
TOTAL	14,149	28,809	

The indicative price for both variety is set at P15.00 per kilogram.
Sale shall be for the **whole lot**, ex-warehouse, "as-is, where-is" basis. Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond in the form of either cash, manager's or cashier's check payable to NFA equivalent to the following:

CLASSIFICATION	CAPITALIZATION	BID BOND
Small and Medium GB's	Up to P100,000.00	5% of bid amount
Big	More than P100,000.00	10% of bid amount

Interested parties should submit the following documents to the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC):

1. Authenticated photo copy of NFA license/registration
2. Duly Notarized authorization from the owner/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the company as an official/employee and is authorized to represent the company in the SMDP and other activities pertinent therein.
3. Certification from the concerned Registration and Licensing Office where the participant is registered as to the capitalization bracket (Small – P 20,000.00 Medium – P20,001.00 to P100,000.00 and Big – more than P100,000.00).

The SMDP will be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, Second Floor, NFA Regional Office, San Juan, La Union on the following schedules:

Activities	Date	Time
Issuance of Invitation to Bid and Tender Forms	August 30, 2004 to September 7, 2004	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
	September 8, 2004	8:00 – 9:00 AM
Pre-Sale Conference	September 8, 2004	10:00 AM
SMDP Proper	September 8, 2004	Immediately after Pre-Sale Conference or at the time the Committee declares

The SMDP Terms and Conditions and Tender Forms can be secured from the RBAC Secretariat at the venue specified above after paying a non-refundable fee of P300.00 per participant.

Further details and inquiries maybe addressed to the Operations Sections with telephone numbers (072) 242-5907; 242-5909 and 700-2579.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the undersigned shall be final.

(Sgd.) **DANILO L. BONABON**
Regional Director

(PDI – August 31 & September 3, 2004)

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

August 27, 2004

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) located at Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City is inviting interested parties to prequalify and participate in the forthcoming public bidding for the supply of goods and services for the implementation of NHMFC Computerization Upgrade Project, to wit:

1.	125	units	Personal Computer
2.	1	unit	Laptop Computer
3.	2	units	Database Server
4.	85	units	Dot Matrix Printers
5.	2	units	AVR for Server
6.	125	units	UPS for PCs

Prequalification documents may be obtained from the IT-BAC Secretariat during the office hours from September 1 to September 3, 2004. Deadline for the submission of prequalification documents is September 9, 2004. Prospective bidders shall be advised in due course of the results of their application for the prequalification.

Only bidders who are prequalified can get copies of the Terms of Reference (TOR) upon payment of the non-refundable amount of Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00) and can participate in the bidding. The pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids shall be announced later.

The NHMFC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, disqualify any bidder or to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation or annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of the bid without incurring any liability to the affected bidders or stating the grounds for NHMFC action.

For further information/clarification on the above matters, please contact Ms. Loida Raymundo or Ms. Moi Velasco at tel. no. 893-1501 local 324 or 327.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTONIO N. DELOS REYES**
Chairman - IT - BAC

(PDI - Aug 31, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF CY 2004

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility & to bid for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the fourth quarter of Year 2004 with the following specifications:

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications : Headrice – 90% to 95% (minimum)
  Broken – 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P1,200.00 per sack per employee
Source of Fund : Operating Expense – Rice Grant

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	August 30 – Sept 08, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements	September 13, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00	September 15, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 16, 2004, 2:00 p.m.	Bidding Room, 6th Floor, SSS Main Bldg
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin.		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – August 31, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan, Isabela

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela through its Bids and Awards Committee is inviting interested Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Exclusive Distributors/Suppliers in the pre-eligibility and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of various Office Supplies, Janitorial Supplies, Electrical Supplies, Veterinary Medicines & Supplies, Agricultural Supplies, Janitorial Services & Security Services and Motor Vehicles for the different Provincial Office and District Hospitals in the Province of Isabela.

BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Availability of Pre-Bid Requirements	Starting August 30, 2004, Mondays to Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Provincial Services Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Deadline of Submission of Requirements	September 15, 2004 at the Office of the Provincial General Services Office, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Pre-Bid Conference	September 22, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Bidding	October 8, 2004 10:00 a.m. - Motor Vehicle 10:30 a.m. - Office, Janitorial and Electrical Supplies 11:00 a.m. - Veterinary Medicines and Agricultural Supplies 2:00 p.m. - Janitorial & Security Services at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Source of Fund	Approved Budget for the Contracts Php 9.7 million charged against the General Fund of the Province of Isabela

Complete sets of bid proposal/forms may be acquired from the Provincial General Services Office by the eligible suppliers/dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee of Php 2,000.00 and Governor's Permit Fee of Php 500.00 at the Provincial Treasurers Office. At the date of bidding, sealed bids in triplicate forms shall be submitted with refundable bidders bond equivalent to 1% percent of the total bid. Bidders bond shall be in the form of cash only. No personal checks shall be accepted as bidders bond.

(Sgd.) MARIA GRACIA CIELO M. PADACA
Provincial Governor

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 31, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
ILAGAN

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela through its Bids and Awards Committee is inviting interested Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Exclusive Distributors/Suppliers in the pre-eligibility and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of various Drugs and Medicines, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray and Dental Supplies and I.V. Fluids for the different District Hospitals in the Province of Isabela.

BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Availability of Pre-Bid Requirements – Starting August 27, 2004, Mondays to Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Office of the Provincial General Services, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Deadline of Submission of Requirements – September 03, 2004 at the Office of the Prov'l General Services, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela.

Pre-Bid Conference – September 06, 2004 at 10:00 am at Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela.

Bidding – September 20, 2004 at 10:00 am – at the Governor's Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela.

Source of Fund – Approved Budget for the contract is Php50,000,000.00 charged against the General Fund of the Province of Isabela

Complete set of bid proposal/forms may be acquired from the Prov'l General Services Office by the eligible suppliers/dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee of Php2,000.00 and Governor's Permit Fee of Php500.00 at the Prov'l Treasurer's Office. At the date of bidding, sealed bids in triplicate forms shall be submitted with refundable bidders bond equivalent to 1% percent of the total bid. Bidders bond shall be in the form of cash only. No personal checks shall be accepted as bidders bond.

(Sgd.) **MARIA GRACIA CIELO M. PADACA**
Provincial Governor

(PDI-Aug. 24 & 31, 2004)

TRANSCO RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation (TransCo) added another feather in its cap as its district office in North Luzon formally received an ISO Certification for Quality Management System. The formal awarding of the ISO 9001:2000 Certification for TransCo's North Luzon District II (Mt. Province), headed by engineer Marcelo Ganaden, was held at the La Trinidad Substation in Benguet Province on Aug. 4. TransCo's Mt. Province District's ISO certification covers the operations and maintenance of transmission lines and substations in La Trinidad, Beckel, Ambuklao Take-off, Itogon and Binga Switchyard. It is the second district corporate-wide to attain the ISO Certification, the first being the Ilocos District (District I) awarded a year ago. TransCo's Systems Operations (SO) Group was also formally awarded its upgraded ISO Certification in February this year. Its first international certification, the ISO 9001:1994 in October 2001, made it the first SO Group in the Asean region to bag the international seal of quality management.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

ERRATUM

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is informing all interested bidders per Invitation to Apply For Eligibility And To Bid which was published last August 13 and 20, 2004 that Instructions to Bidders can be secured up to August 31, 2004 from the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand pesos (P5,000.00).

The pre-bidding conference where the terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed is moved to September 2, 2004 at the HRD Conference Room, 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

DAR also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEDDIE ELSON E. RIVERA**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 31, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology – Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-BAC) hereby invites local suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the project entitled "Upgrading of Existing Science Laboratories for the Public Elementary and High Schools in the Province of Pampanga" subdivided into:

Lot 1 Science Laboratory Equipment & References
Lot 2 IT Equipment and Software
Lot 3 Office Equipment

The approved budget for the purpose is P5,189,100.00 for Lot 1, P4,394,100.00 for Lot 2, and P241,800 for Lot 3 all chargeable against DOST Regional Office No. 3. The scope of works includes the supply, delivery, installation and testing of laboratory supplies & equipment, IT equipment & software and office equipment.

Eligibility forms and schedule of requirements and technical specifications shall be available for issuance to interested bidders upon payment for each lot of a non-refundable fee of P200.00 and P800.00 for the issuance of bid documents to eligible and qualified bidders. Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Schedule of Requirements & Specifications	September 01-03, 2004, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Schedule of Requirements & Specifications	September 06-08, 2004 until 5:00 pm. Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15-16, 2004, Rm. 207, DOST Bldg.
Pre-Bid Conference	September 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m. / DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig
Opening of Bids	October 01, 2004; 10:00 a.m./DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at. http://www.dost.gov.ph.

The DOST-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DOST-BAC

(PDI–Aug. 25 & 31, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Information and Communications Technology
National Computer Center – Field Operations Office

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Computer Center – Field Operations Office (NCC-FOO) invites interested parties for the provision of various ICT equipment relative to the implementation of its **Jumpstarting E-Governance in Local Government Units (eLGU)** project for the following lots and approved budget:

Lot 1 – Community e-Centers (CeCs) for Luzon	P	2,310,000.00
Lot 2 – Community e-Centers (CeCs) for Visayas	P	990,000.00
Lot 3 – Community e-Centers (CeCs) for Mindanao	P	1,980,000.00

Interested parties may secure the eligibility requirements and request-for-proposal from the following upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00:

Luzon : Concepcion P. Lasam, NCC-FOO – Luzon, National Computer Center, C.P. Garcia Ave., UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City, Tel. # (02) 9207416
Visayas : Frederick D. Amores, NCC-FOO – Visayas, DOST 7, Gov. Manuel Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City, Tel# (032) 2317024
Mindanao : Cheryl C. Ortega, NCC-FOO, SRT Loong Building, Veterans Avenue, Tumaga Extension, Zamboanga City, Tel# (062) 9932878

Bid documents will be issued from August 31 to September 29, 2004. The pre-bid conference (September 17, 2004) and opening of bids (September 30, 2004) will be conducted at NCC-FOO in Zamboanga City.

NCC reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals without offering any reason whatsoever, to waive any defects therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most responsive.

A copy of this invitation is also posted at http://foo.ncc.gov.ph, http://elgu.ncc.gov.ph, and http://www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **Cheryl C. Ortega**
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI–August 31 & Sept. 7, 2004)

Mega Jobs Fair at the PTTC

A MEGA Jobs Fair was held at the Employer's Summit on Employers and Industrial Relations held at the Philippine Trade Training Center along Roxas Blvd. last August 23 and 24. This Job's Fair theme "Negosyo at Trabaho para sa Bayan" aims to match job vacancies with the jobseekers.

The Jobs Fair was participated by 69 companies and more than 2000 applicants came to the event.

This event came about with the collaborated efforts of Employers Confederation of the Phils (Ecop), Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and Couples For Christ – Fellow Guild.

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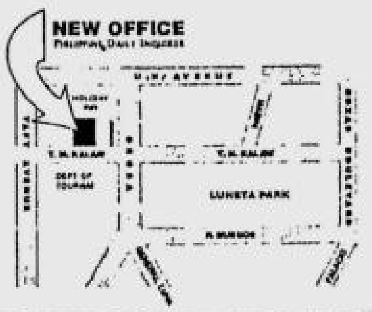

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DEATH NOTICE

Conchita Lugod Belza, 50

Born : Nov. 23, 1953
Died : Aug. 21, 2004

Her remains lie in state at San Jose Baybayon, Buhi, Camarines Sur.

Interment on Sept. 1, 2004 at the Buhi Catholic Cemetery after the 1 p.m. Mass at the Buhi Catholic Church.

Dionisio "Totoy" K. Ong

Died on August 26, 2004

Interment will be today, August 31, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Heaven's Garden Memorial Park, Diversion Road, Brgy. Mayuwi, Tayabas, Quezon.

> "...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
> **2 Corinthians 5:8**

Lucia "Ka Nini" Linatoc-Atienza

of Lipa City
UST College of Pharmacy, Class 1950

Peacefully joined her Creator
on August 29, 2004 at the age of 77.

Her loving husband **Perfecto**; children **Nestor, Archie, Gina, Dennis, Yul, Lisa, Nona** and **Dondi**; children-in-law **Josephine, Cris, Cookie, Menet** and **Ethel** and grandchildren **Nessa, Gandi, Igo, Kris, Kimberly, Choco, Geeya, Patsy, Miggy, Mela, Mon-Mon, Margaux, Bea, Tammie, Rafa, Enzo, Jio** and **Aia**; siblings **Beting, Lita, Teming** and **Dely**; with her other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Sebastian Cathedral Mortuary, Lipa City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2004 at the Eternal Garden-Insoluban, Lipa City after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

NG SIU HUA
vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

Chingkang, China and Malabon City

February 8, 1918 – August 18, 2004

who peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 86

wish to express our most profound gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our relatives and friends who offered prayers, masses, messages of sympathy, sent flowers and mass cards, donations, spent their precious time with us, attended the funeral rites and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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"The King will say to these on his right; Come, you have by Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcome me. [36] naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me... [40] I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me." **Mt 25:34-40**

Thank you Mommy/Lola for teaching us Christ-like love.

Estela Zerrudo-Villanueva

January 25, 1923 – August 28, 2004

Her children **Alvin** and **Ann, Ellie, Johnny** and **Marion, Dahra** and **Rene Mendoza** (†), **Alton** and **Ina, Nito** and **Melba Tiongco, Deanna** and **Jeremy Hayley-Bell**, her grandchildren and all her relatives will fondly remember and miss her and request the readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philam Life Homes, QC. Final Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 3, interment will follow at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, QC.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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CLASSIFIEDS

GMA's Poverty Alleviation Program inspires fashion show

CATCH a unique fashion show at the grand opening of Gayon Bicol Fiesta sa Intramuros on Sept. 4. The "Kasal Bikolnon" Fashion Show will showcase "pinukpok" (abaca silk) produced by the Banquerohan Resettlement Site Neighborhood Association (BRSNA) of Banquerohan, Legazpi City. The BRSNA was chosen by the Department of Labor and Employment Region V (DOLE-V) as the beneficiary community of the Poverty Free Zone Program (PFZ) of the DOLE under the poverty alleviation program of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The BRSNA produces "pinukpok" now, sans the tedious process of pounding the fabric, with the use of a mechanized rotary press introduced and funded by the PFZ Program of Dole.

"Kasal Bikolnon" features government officials and employees and prominent as well as ordinary Bicolanos who will daringly ramp for the first time, all for the cause of poverty alleviation. The models bought their own "pinukpok" from the BRSNA and had their attires designed and sewn free of charge by five participating designers-couturiers of the Albay Designers Guild – Willi de Legazpi, Ailene Briobo, Philip Barja, Klang Arispe and Ambette Alberto.

The overwhelming support of government agencies and the private sector for this laudable Dole program prompted the Regional Development Council Region V (RDC-V) and the Regional Executives and Directors Association (Rediras) to sponsor the "Kasal Bikolnon" Fashion Show, upon its invitation by the Department of Tourism to join the WOW Philippines.

ARMM Social Fund constructs two SRI sub-projects

ONE of the major components of ARMM Social Fund Project is the Strategic Regional Infrastructure (SRI), wherein the objective is to improve access and provide services through the rehabilitation and construction of critical infrastructure.

There are 13 SRI sub-projects in the pipeline and for this month it has started the construction of the Regional Social Welfare and Development (RESWAD) Center in Barangay Semba, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao for DSWD-ARMM and Sulu Provincial Hospital in Barangay Asturias, Jolo, Sulu for DOH-ARMM, as proponent agency that came up with a total counterpart of P6,451,080. The bid cost for both projects is P55,307,633.25.

The Reswad Center will be built to serve as a one-stop service center for DSWD requirements for the ARMM Region. At the same time, the Sulu Provincial Hospital will be rehabilitated and improved so as to upgrade its services to the Sulu constituents.

According to ASF Executive Director Nazrullah B. Manzur, the operation and maintenance of these sub-projects are also being addressed as part of their sustainability in order for the beneficiaries to continuously benefit from it.

The ceremonial ground breaking for both Reswad Center and Sulu Provincial Hospital will be held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 2, at Maguindanao and Sulu Provinces respectively.

ARMM Regional Governor Parouk S. Hussin, Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman and Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles of the ASF Board of Directors will be attending the ground breaking ceremonies.

Arlington launches 'Puno Ko, Pamana Ko' project

ARLINGTON Memorial Chapels Inc celebrated the 76th birthday of its founder Nestor L. Jose last Aug.18, by launching 'Puno Ko, Pamana Ko' project. This tree planting endeavor is being undertaken by the Arlington executives and employees in collaboration with ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan.

Arlington has purchased five hectares of forest in the Bantay Kalikasan's La Mesa Watershed Project where a memorial tree will be planted in the name of a departed loved one. The memory of those they have served will remain through this "Forest of Serenity". The legacy of a loved one is kept alive for future generations by each tree growing in this forest. This is Arlington's way of trying to ease the pain of losing someone and helping a family deal with their grief.

Each tree planted in the memory of a loved one is a tribute to a life well lived. It is Arlington's pledge to render professional and personalized service to each family they serve. This is but a simple way they hope to show their commitment to those they have served, and to help preserve our natural resources for the Filipinos of tomorrow.

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BUSINESS

T-bill rates continue to rise

By Doris C. Dumlao

TREASURY bill yields yesterday rose across the board as market players sought premium rates following Malacañang's admission that the government was in the midst of a fiscal crisis.

The rise in T-bill rates was even tempered by the rejection of some bids by the Bureau of Treasury.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks as basis in pricing their loans, averaged at 7.183 percent or 25.5 basis points higher than the rate in the last auction. The average 182-day T-bill rate likewise rose 24.7 basis points to 8.455 percent, while the 364-day T-bill rate went up by 49 basis points to 9.771 percent.

"The market has been factoring in the fiscal condition of the government, the higher inflation, the anticipated hike in the US rates, and the weaker peso," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said.

Given the rising inflation scenario, bankers were expecting the benchmark T-bill rate to hit 7.5 to 7.75 percent in yesterday's auction, but this was preempted by the rejection of some bids.

Had it accepted all bids, the benchmark 91-day yield would have averaged 7.488 percent.

Over the medium-term, a banker said the benchmark T-bill rate would likely reach 8 to 8.5 percent.

Only P6.1 billion worth of tenders were submitted, as against the BTr's offer amounting to P11 billion. Of the amount tendered, P5.53 billion was accepted.

The under-subscription indicated that most securities dealers preferred to conserve their cash and await higher yields in the future. Likewise part of the reason was that some banks were still adjusting to a new settlement system in the trading of government securities.

Mendiola said a shift to real-time trading of government securities in the secondary market, which began this week, had the initial impact of siphoning off liquidity from the financial market.

Settlement of securities trading is now being implemented on real-time basis, unlike the previous system, where it was done at the end of the trading day.

However, he said there should be sufficient interest in the five-year zero coupon bonds which will be auctioned off today by the BTr. He said the offering would likely attract interest from institutional investors.

The government aims to sell at least P5 billion worth of the zero coupon bonds today.

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted the government's fragile fiscal position and called for support for her administration's austerity measures.

The government's budget deficit amounted to P99.41 billion in the first seven months of the year, overshooting the P98.57-billion ceiling set for the period.

The government targets to keep its budget gap at P197.8 billion for the full year.

BPI to increase loan portfolio for SMEs

DAVAO CITY—The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) said it was expanding its loan exposure to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by about P2 billion this year.

Melecio Kimpo, BPI vice president and provincial lending head, said the bank's outstanding loan portfolio for SMEs was about P10 billion nationwide.

He said the growth of SMEs, including those in Mindanao, had fueled the bank's optimism that it would get more clients by the end of the year.

"The P2 billion is a conservative estimate," Kimpo said.

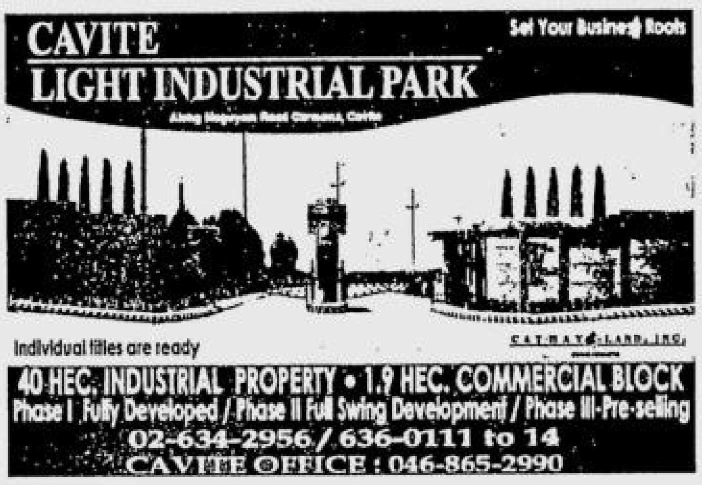
Kimpo said BPI's main reason for tapping the growing SME sector was that borrowers from this sector were religious in paying their obligations. "Its risk factor has been steadily going down."

"Our past due rate in this sector is about 5 percent, down from 6 percent last year," he said.

Kimpo said BPI's business center in Mindanao had the lowest past due rate of only 1 percent, even if it had an outstanding loan portfolio of P600 million, the biggest among the bank's branches nationwide.

Kimpo said other banks remained cautious in providing credit windows to SMEs because of their past experience in lending to this sector. Repayment rate in the past was very low. Some banks also think that the SMEs were poor in financial management.

He said BPI wanted to help SMEs overcome fiscal management problems and increase their credit-worthiness.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DOE asserts authority over Napocor sale

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN while waiting for the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) to reconstitute itself, the Department of Energy is asserting the authority of the executive branch over the sale of National Power Corp.'s generation assets.

"The executive branch is the one that implements the (privatization) plan, although the JCPC is there for consultation. We just want to privatize the assets as fast as possible," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said.

This was in response to JCPC Chair Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles' letter asking the DOE and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to seek JCPC approval on any changes in the privatization schedule and groupings of the Napocor gencos.

Two weeks ago, PSALM announced some changes in the privatization schedule and groupings that the JCPC had approved in December last year.

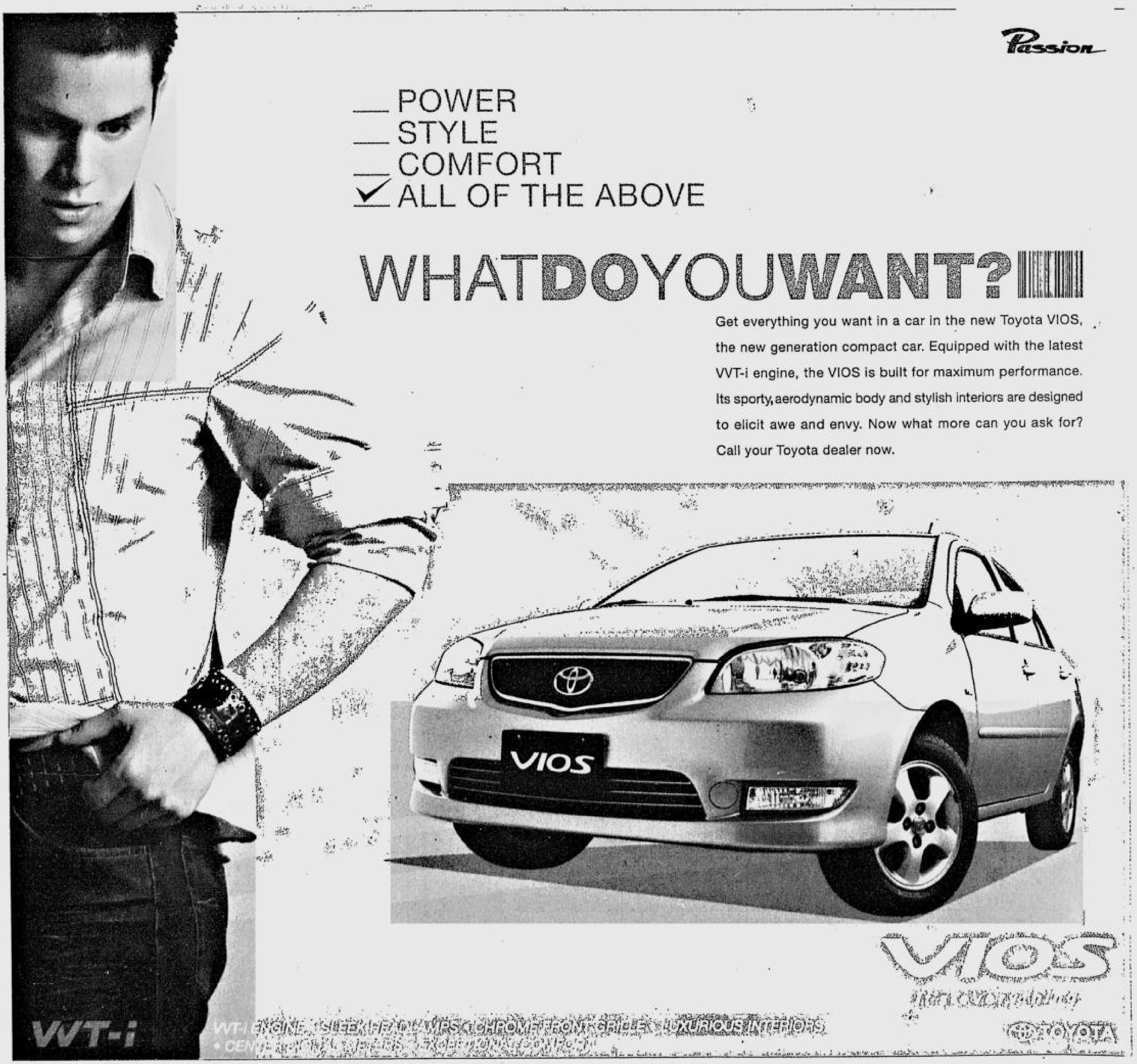
Instead of having eight clusters consisting of 35 power plants, the new schedule covers six groups composed of 32 plants.

The discrepancy was due to the sale of three hydroelectric plants a few months ago.

Badelles questioned the changing of the schedule as well as the groupings of the plants, citing the JCPC's authority to approve or at least know about any such changes in the Napocor privatization plan.

But Perez said the DOE and PSALM only wanted to accelerate the sale of Napocor's gencos as the actual asset sale was already behind schedule.

As for the changing of the genco groupings, he said this was done to allow more Filipino investors access to the smaller plants, or the plants that they could buy even without any foreign partners.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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

VISUAL appeal and functionality interplay at the Pavilion's design.

EDSA CENTRAL REBIRTH

Putting a new face to an enduring landmark

By Charles E. Buban

THE OPENING of Edsa Central Shopping Complex in the '70s marked the beginning of a concept called "midway point" wherein travelers either going to work or back home could go some place halfway their destination to shop, dine or just relax.

Ever since then, Edsa Central has become a people magnet, a fact that has contributed to the transformation of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard intersection into one of Metro Manila's busiest districts.

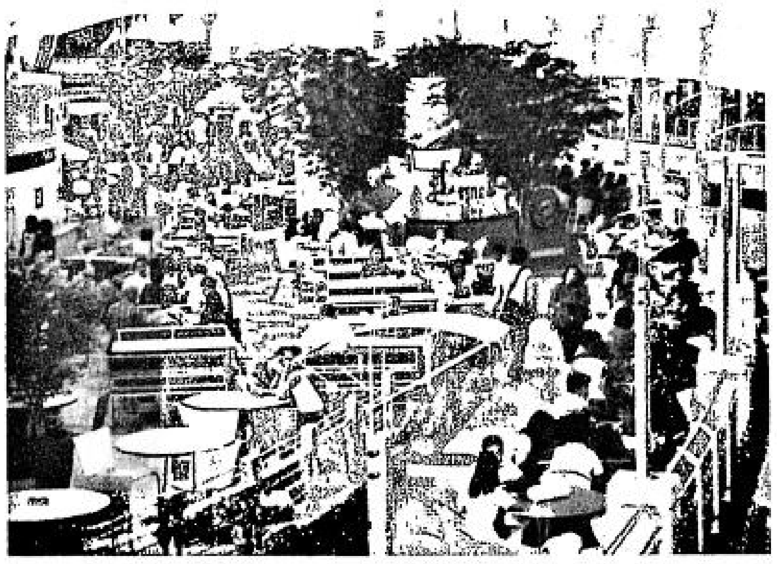
The area around the complex is no longer just a large patch of grassy land and few office buildings like it was many years ago.

These developments have happened:

- New establishments have risen.
- The intersection is now very busy because of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit.
- The volume of people has risen exponentially in the last few years.

Because of these, Greenfield Development Corp., the property development firm that owns and manages the shopping complex has taken the bold step in providing a more modern and convenient commercial hub.

Today, travelers, shoppers and bargain-hunters alike will be delighted to see that Edsa Central is now bigger and better to serve the ever-growing market.



MORE than 3,000 sq m of space was provided to the Food Central at the second level.

Major transformation

This is Edsa Central's major transformation since it opened in the '70s. The 8-hectare property is being redeveloped through several phases among which is the major makeover of the main mall, the three-level New Edsa Central Pavilion and the improvement of the Edsa Central Station, formerly the MRT Station Mall.

As the primary focus of the initial phase of the redevelopment, the Pavilion will carry the banner of the whole commercial complex, a reason Greenfield tapped the services of one of the country's leading architects, WV Coscolluela and Associates.

One of the major hurdles that the firm had to consider in the main mall's makeover was how to make use of the existing structure to minimize cost as well as how to merge it seamlessly into the Edsa-Shaw station of the Metro Rail Transit now known as Edsa Central Station.

"As you know, it's always easier to plan from scratch, where ideas are more freely expressed. Having to do with plans with existing limitations are always considered difficult and a big challenge for us architects," shared principal architect William Coscolluela.

Latest trend

The design concept throughout the Pavilion's close to 23,000-square-meter total floor area follows the latest trend in shopping center design wherein there is the balance between visual appeal and functionality.

"They must offer spacious ground floor, provide tenants maximum exposure whatever level they may be located, impart new experience to shoppers, and people must be able to conveniently navigate inside," explained Coscolluela. The design must give equal concern for both tenants and shoppers.

Indeed, the new design provided the Pavilion a cavernous interior so that people can see more store façade (even those located at the second and third level). An entrance feature was constructed complete with water features, planters and benches to serve as a rest stop for busy and weary customers.

For effective customer traffic circulation, escalators were provided on both ends of the Pavilion.

On the second level, the Food Central occupies more than 3,000 sq m of space. It is dotted with fast-food restaurants and stalls to give mallers a pleasant dining experience.

"Those who prefer an al fresco setting can have their meal at the balcony that overlooks the entire Edsa Central or on the other side, the whole stretch of the retail spaces at the lower level," revealed Coscolluela.

Linkage to MRT station

The linkage to the MRT station was also given utmost consideration in the design of the Edsa Central Pavilion.

"The main mall's connection to the station (Edsa Central Station) must be seamless so we employed design patterns not too different to the MRT station's designs," explained Coscolluela.

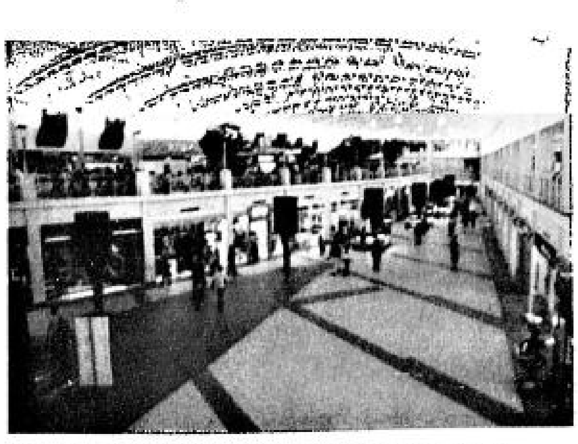
Considering the tight space, curve lines were introduced in the interior space of the Edsa Central Pavilion, which provided the spacious look.

"The curved roof with specially designed trusses gave the interior the required grandeur: an airy, expansive, illuminated feel," shared Coscolluela.

The continuous frosted glass clerestory on both sides helped provide brightness of the interior.

The air-conditioned structure was built with reinforced frosted glass as windows and a curved ultra-high ceiling to give the mall fresh, expansive look.

PUTTING/ C2



THE NEW design provided the Pavilion a cavernous interior.

FOR better traffic circulation, escalators were provided.

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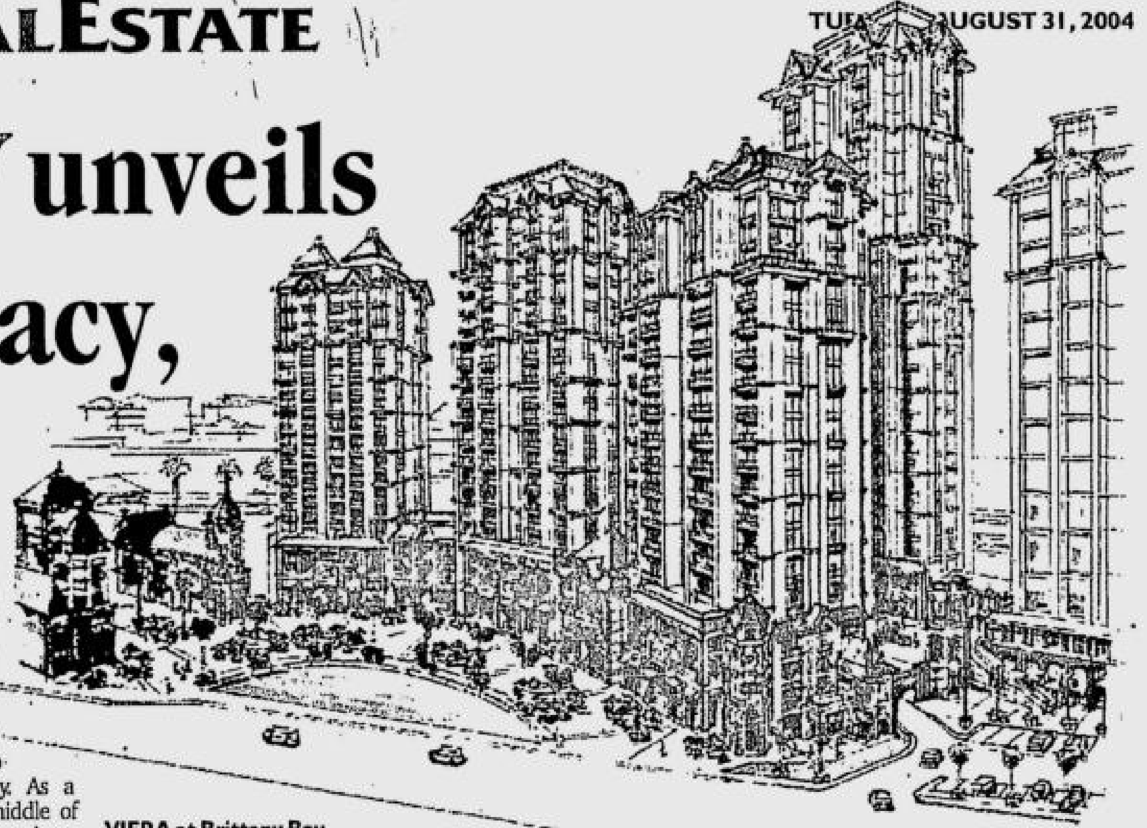
Brittany Bay unveils condos with privacy, style, community



VIERA at Brittany Bay

BRITTANY Corp., the real estate maverick known for high-end, uniquely themed residential communities, makes its debut in vertical property with Viera, an ensemble of multilevel, mid-rise condominiums that will appeal to the sense of privacy, style and community of young urban achievers who have begun to earn the privileges of success.

Viera will constitute a major neighborhood of Brittany Bay, a new "cosmopolis" inspired by the neo-Victorian architectural influences of San Francisco, offering an eclectic array of residential settings both horizontal and vertical, with thoughtful amenities as well as commercial and leisure facilities integral to the master plan.

Brittany Bay boasts a strategic location bound by the Sucat and Bicutan Interchanges along the South Luzon Expressway and the edge of Laguna de Bay, 15 minutes from Makati and 20 minutes from Ortigas Center.

It is a community that brings to life Brittany's definition of urban renewal—creating an ideal setting in the big city to enjoy living in, where lifestyle and quality of life are enhanced.

Viera's appeal

What sets Viera apart as a symphony of condominiums is the way it appeals to residents who value privacy, style and community.

First, Viera appeals to one's sense of privacy, being more generously spaced than other condominiums, with the smallest unit measuring 39 square meters. Each floor will have an average of six units. Unlike other condominiums that seem to be bursting with tenants, each building in Viera will only have between 95 and 120 tenants, for a comfortable, cozy environment encouraging neighborliness.

Second, Viera appeals to one's sense of community. As a neighborhood set in the middle of Brittany Bay, it doesn't engender a feeling of isolation, as other condominiums can, even while it affords utmost privacy. Viera enables residents to become members of a delightful neighborhood, participating in common activities and developing relationships with peers on a first-name basis. Contributing to friendly interaction among residents will be commercial establishments found in the lower levels of Viera condos for shopping, dining and entertainment.

Finally, Viera appeals to one's sense of style, with its architecture reminiscent of San Francisco, one of the most scenic cities in the world. Everyone approaching Viera's façade will be greeted by al fresco dining areas, fountains and landscaped greenery. Indeed, Viera's unique layout and structures will set new standards for condominium living in the metropolis.

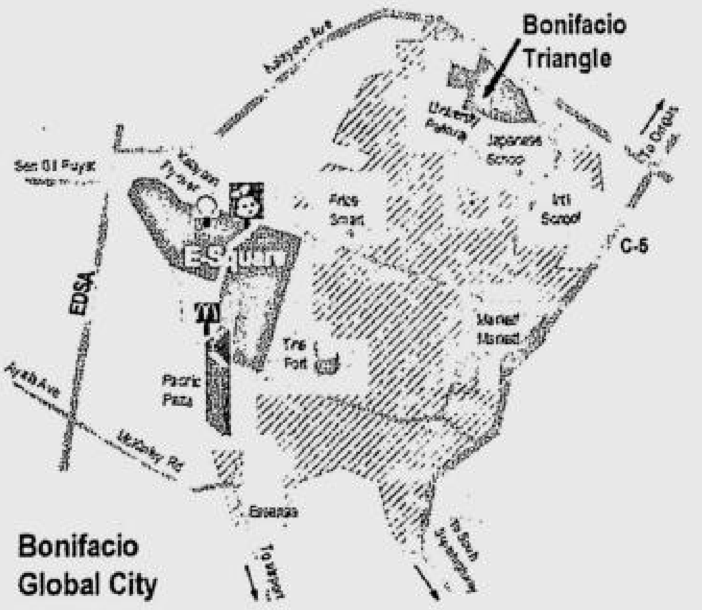
Neo-Victorian influences

The neo-Victorian character of Viera is seen not only in its architecture but also in how the buildings are laid out, with greenery and structures blending harmoniously. Viera's structural design emulates the distinguishing characteristics of San Francisco's charming neighborhoods. The neo-Victorian influences are evident in Viera's elegant façade, with soft pastel shades, flat canopies, bay windows and roof shingles.

With its unique concept, Viera is meant for achievers looking for their own space or those with families needing a home in a strategic location. Units are available with one, two, three and four bedrooms.

Residents will find in Viera what they want in a condo home: ample personal space, attractive living features, and an opportunity to be a part of a neighborhood highlighting privacy, style and community.

Bonifacio Global City lots sold since ALI-Campos takeover



A YEAR after the Ayala-Campos group acquired a controlling stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., investor interest in Bonifacio Global City has strengthened significantly with a number of buyers snapping up lots in prime areas of the emerging business district.

According to Bobby Dy, head of commercial operations of FBDC, sales of lots in Bonifacio Global City have exceeded expectations. Since the Ayala-Campos group took over in April 2003, a total of 35 lots ranging from 941 to 5,908 square meters in Bonifacio Global City have been sold. "We continue to receive numerous inquiries from potential lot buyers," he says.

Ayala Land Inc., the country's largest property developer, and its partner, the Campos group, which has interests in pharmaceuticals, food and real estate, have been key in developing the area. "Investors see the potential of Bonifacio Global City given its prime location and the commitment of its developers to fulfill the vision for the city as the next business district," explains Dy.

Investing in Global City

Developers of residential and office projects, commercial and service establishments have led the pack in investing in Bonifacio Global City where land prices currently range from P45,000 to P120,000 per sq m. Bonifacio Global City's office buildings are currently fully occupied, says Dy. Many established retail operators have likewise reported strong sales, while Bonifacio's range of luxury residential buildings have served as attractive homes to members of the foreign community, business leaders and top executives.

He observes that call centers and business outsourcing firms have been particularly interested in the district called E-Square, which is accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. This allows locators to avail of incentives such as reduced taxes and duty-free importation of capital equipment. Like the rest of the city, E-Square has a fiber optic cabling network, which supports a wide range of telephone, video and data applications.

Bonifacio Triangle's appeal

Meanwhile, the appeal of Bonifacio Triangle, the most recently opened phase at Bonifacio Global City, has largely been its proximity to both the Makati and Ortigas Central Business Districts. Since this phase is located on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati, is easily accessed via Kalayaan Fly-over, while C-5 leads to the Ortigas and other northern areas.

Bonifacio Global City's pace of development is likely to step up with the opening this September of Market!Market!, Ayala Land's value mall with retail and specialty stores, food outlets and restaurants, amusement centers and seven cinemas. Dy predicts that as more consumers flock to this anchor project, more offices, institutions and residential projects are likely to follow in its wake. Anchor developments like this will build up a critical mass in the area and create development momentum, according to Dy.

Ayala Land's Serendra hosts night of design for BPI clients

AYALA Land Inc. and Community Innovations Inc. recently hosted a cocktail event to launch a partnership with the Bank of the Philippine Islands, offering convenient payment schemes for qualified BPI clients who are prospective buyers of Serendra—the latest pioneer development in the heart of Bonifacio Global City.

Gracing the event were Ayala Land president Jaime Ayala, Ayala Land senior vice president Angela de Villa Lacson, BPI senior executive vice president Gigi Montinola, BPI senior vice president for marketing Nita Claravall, BPI vice president for private banking Albert Pascual and head of BPI Private Banking Tez Coscolluela. Also present were top interior designers Tina Periquet, Budji Layug and Royal Pineda, who showcased the designs they created for the Serendra model units.

Residential enclaves

Situated in a 12-hectare property, Serendra will only use approximately 40 percent of the total land area for residential enclaves. The rest will be devoted to open spaces, themed gardens, and lush landscapes, so that residents can enjoy the luxury of a refuge in the city. The design of the low-density sections is a marriage between modern European master planning and a façade patterned after the Filipino *"bahay na bato."*

There are studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units available with floor areas ranging from 40 to 187 square meters.

Ideal location

According to ALI senior vice president Angie Lacson, Serendra provides key market segments, the fulfillment of the "live, work and play" lifestyle.

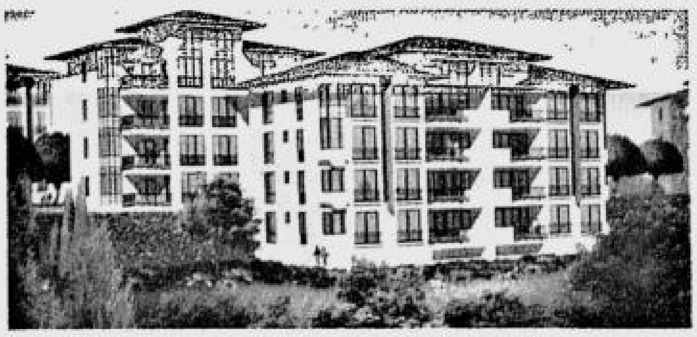
Says Lacson: "Serendra is very near the Makati Central Business District and can be accessed via C-5 to the South Luzon Expressway. It is also situated within close proximity to schools like the International School Manila, The British School, The Manila Japanese School and the Makati Gospel Church New Life Christian Ministry. And because Serendra is an Ayala Community, families can also look forward to restaurants and other retail facilities to cater to their needs."

BPI's valued clients and aspiring homeowners—newlyweds, single individuals, young and growing families, or empty-nesters—can own a Serendra unit via BPI Family Savings bank's exclusive offering of 0.25 percent reduction off the regular rates as well as waiving the P3,000 appraisal fee.

GROUN AKING

PRESENT during the groundbreaking of Serendra second phase are Angela de Villa-Lacson and Miriam Katigbak (foreground). At the background are Emilio Tumbocon and Rufo Colayco.

Highlands Prime to launch 'The Horizon'



THE HORIZON at Tagaytay Midlands

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc., a publicly listed property developer majority-owned by the SM Group, proudly announces that sales of its maiden project "The Woodridge" has hit the P1 billion mark.

The company has already sold 98 of the 138 units of the upscale Tagaytay Highlands condominium project overlooking the Highlands Golf Course, Laguna de Bay and surrounding mountains.

"We have turned over 70 percent of the units to Woodridge buyers within a period of 12 to 15 months," reported Antonio A. Henson, HPI president. Chair Henry Sy Sr. said more projects will be in the offing for HPI, since the company owns over 500 hectares of prime property in the exclusive Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands complex.

Further proof of this is the forthcoming launch of HPI's next landmark project, "The Horizon" located at the Tagaytay Midlands. Phase One will feature 14 clusters of three-bedroom condominium units with an average floor area of 136 square meters each, totaling 214 units.

The Horizon boasts of a spectacular panoramic view of the Midlands Golf Course, the Taal Lake and Mt. Makiling. It is designed by well-known architects Recio+Casas and will be of contemporary Asian design. Landscaping will include pocket Japanese gardens and a picnic area.

ALL SYSTEMS GO

FRC Super Mall, a project of Cuevasville Realty & Development Corp. is all set for its grand opening early September. Its various tenants are just putting the finishing touches on their respective stalls, eager to service an expected sell-out crowd which has been anxiously waiting for the event. FRC Super Mall is strategically located at the heart of downtown Imus, Cavite.

Putting a new face. . .

From page C1

More developments

Aside from the Pavilion, the spruced up Edsa Central Hub (the former jeepney park area), Edsa Central Square (now the value center where the former cinemas were located), Greenfield is also planning to build a new chapel inside the Pavilion, as well as more shopper-friendly features such as pedestrian bridge link.

Areas to be redeveloped include the Edsa Central Marketplace, the only traditional wet market at the heart of a commercial and business district.

Greenfield gradually realizes its vision in building not only a shopping complex but a real business district—to be called the Greenfield District—to serve the continually evolving populace and to assist the government in its campaign for urban renewal.

With the redevelopment, the developers hope the Edsa Central Shopping Complex will ceaselessly remain a major crossroad for shoppers and major value haven for years to come.

LINKAGE to the MRT station was also given utmost consideration in the Pavilion's design.

Designing and planning your commercial space

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

(Last of three parts)

AFTER IDENTIFYING the right customer and the right location for your commercial establishment, then it is also important to identify the remaining critical items:

- **The Right Layout**

Having a good layout simply means that the characteristics of your commercial space should fit the needs of your customers and end users. How many parking spaces do you need? Do you need a lobby or customers prefer privacy? It all ends up to the value proposition that you are delivering to your customers. The right layout is influenced by:

— **Product Type.** The store or office layout would depend on the product that you will sell and how it is to be sold. If it is a convenience store, then there should be a smooth flow of incoming customers as the outgoing ones who would have to pay at the cashier. The fast-moving items should be placed on areas where the customers can easily find and pick up the merchandise. Again, there are professionals who can offer advice on the layout of your store.

— **Service Type.** For service industries such as an auto repair shop, the layout may require a reception area and a waiting lounge for the customers.

— **Space Planning.** Commercial spaces are expensive—whether you rent them or buy them and it is important that the space should be very well planned to maximize usage. Your store designer will be very helpful in planning the layout of the space.

To develop the right layout, it is important that you discuss with your designer the theme, purpose and functional requirements of the space that you would be using.

- **The Right Product**

Having the right product or offering means that you fully understand the needs of the customers you would want to serve. An in-depth market study is needed so that the right product is delivered to the customer. You may also want to look at:

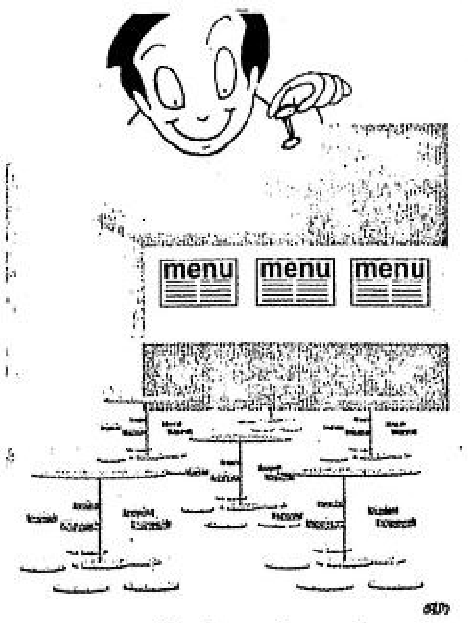
— **Purchase Occasion.** It is very important to identify the occasion in which your product is purchased. Several occasions that will affect the layout and format of your commercial store should be considered. When do your customers buy your product? If it is a "pasalubong" product, then the buyers will mainly buy it on their way home. Therefore a "pasalubong" store may not be successful if it is located on the way to work. If high-end customers purchase the product you are selling, then a parking space may be necessary to make sure that your buyers will have easy access to your product.

— **Competitors.** In analyzing the location of your business, look at your competitors. How do they position their merchandise? How do they layout their stores? Are they your direct competitors or your indirect ones? If they are your direct competitors, you want to sell to the same customers and they may be selling the same items as you do. If they are your indirect ones, they are selling substitute items. Remember that you will have to compete for the same set of customers.

— **Target Customer Volume.** Having identified the target customer, it is now time to calculate the target customer volume. It can be expressed as sales' per square meter per day or month. It is important to figure out the productive output per square meter of space you are using. The target customer volume will be a measurement system of the profitability levels of your business.

- **The Right Price**

After all of the planning, it is important that the product is being offered at the right price. Even if you have a perfect location, it is important that the product is affordable to your target customers. You do not have to have the lowest price since there are other relevant factors that will affect the value of the commercial space.



- **The Right Designer and Builder**

Once you have decided on what to do with your commercial space, it is time now to ask for the help of design and construction professionals. It may seem easy but selecting the right designer and the right builder may be the most difficult part of the process. But if you do select the right one, the process is expected to move on smoothly.

The design and engineering side can be straightforward but you would have to start your financial investments. The process involves:

— **Preliminary Design Layout.** Your designer will do this for you. Based on your customer requirements, they will have a trial layout that you, your staff and even your customers will approve. It is best that you conduct a survey of your target customers to see on how they would react to the proposed layout. You may be surprised by the wealth of information you can get by conducting focus group discussions with the intended market segment.

— **Final Design.** After all of the revisions during the preliminary design phase are taken into account, then the final design can now be created. It is in this phase wherein the final costs are established. From this, the projected profitability of the commercial space can be assessed.

— **Construction.** The dirtiest part and the most expensive, this is the phase in which you will see what you have always planned for. Make sure that you control your costs properly during this phase.

— **Fit Out.** The construction of a commercial space might be simply a shell but the fit out of the necessary equipment would again cost time and money. If it is a restaurant you are building, then setting up the kitchen, dining area and entrance hall would all require specialized skills.

— **Operations.** As soon as operations proceed, you still may have to construct a few items that were overlooked in the initial plan as no design is perfect.

— **Maintenance.** The designer and builder should make sure that the commercial space is easy to maintain and durable enough so that maintenance would not be a headache to the owner.

Final Note. There is no specific formula for the success of a commercial establishment. But following these simple steps can at least reduce the risks in your commercial venture. Good luck to you on your endeavor.

E-mail the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.

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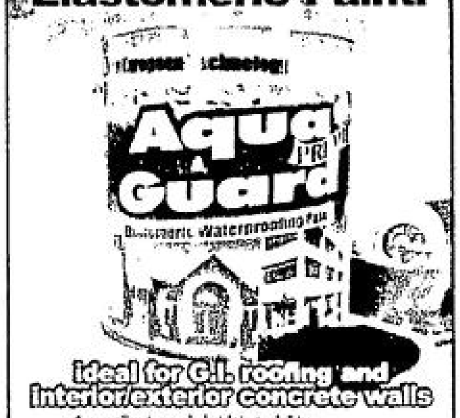

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